FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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21 August Middle East and South Asia Review

LD211243 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes carried out air strikes on an aluminum plant in Arak and sugar plants in Dezful and Shushtar, a communique broadcast 21 August by Voice of the Masses radio announced. Iraq was also accused of bombing villages near Sardasht in the west and Bandar-e Deylam on the Gulf 19 August, according to an Iranian communique reported by IRNA. Iranian forces shelled Iraqi oil platforms in the northern Gulf, the communique added.

Libya-Chad

According to a FANT communique broadcast by Ndjamena radio, a Mirage plane was shot down over the town of Bardai as fighting continued "unabatedly" in the Tibesti region. Ndjamena radio also broadcast a FANT high command announcement of the "provisional" tally after the first of four Libyan columns attacked Aozou on 19 August, according to which 290 Libyans were killed and 40 taken prisoner. By the provisional tally there were 15 dead and 21 wounded on the FANT side.

Meanwhile, Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi continues to send reinforcements and ammunition to the Darfour border region between Chad and Sudan, Ndjamena radio reported. Libyan soldiers equipped with heavy weapons can be found all over the region, and Libya is financing the smuggling of youths from southern Sudan to be drafted into Al-Qadhdhafi's Islamic legion, the radio said.

Sudan

"Independent sources" have confirmed reports that a massacre of civilians by the Khartoum government army took place recently in the town of Wau, the clandestine SPLA Radio reported. Relief agencies cited by the radio said a massacre of civilians took place but gave no figures for the number of people believed killed. The radio reported 18 August that 600 civilians were rounded up by government forces and shot on 11 and 12 August.

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir declared that he and Romanian President Ceausescu agree that peace can "be attained only through direct talks among the interested parties," according to remarks cited by *The Jerusalem Post*. The prime minister, who was speaking at the end of a 3-day visit to Bucharest, noted that Romania plays a "very important and constructive role" in the efforts toward peace and added that the two countries will continue trying to "narrow the gap" between their respective positions. In the area of bilateral relations, Shamir and Ceausescu decided to convene a meeting of the joint economic committee in early 1988 and signed an agreement on cooperation between the two science academies, IDF Radio reported. They also agreed that the Romanian prime minister will visit Israel.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Jerusalem radio reiterated that Israel does not "discuss the fate of hostages publicly" and therefore declined to comment on a reported Iranian proposal that all foreign hostages in Lebanon be exchanged for Shi'ite detainees in Israel and Kuwait.

Lebanon

Lieutenant Colonel Rassam al-Ghul, commander of Fatah's Force 17 in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp near Sidon, was found dead after having been kidnapped, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported 21 August. The radio had previously reported that pro-'Arafat militiamen took up positions along the coastal road in the Al-Kharrub area while combatants loyal to Sa'id Musa Muragha and the PFLP-GC arrived "to counterbalance the influence of 'Arafat in 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah camps."

Four UNIFIL soldiers were wounded when rockets and machine-gun fire hit their position near Tyre, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported.

Tunisia

Police dispersed a demonstration by "several dozen" Islamic fundamentalists in Tunis, according to AFP. An anonymous caller told an international news agency the demonstration was organized by the Islamic Tendency Movement.

Morocco

King Hassan pardoned 345 prisoners on the occasion of the national anniversary, MAP reported.

DRA-Pakistan

The Afghan charge was summoned to the Foreign Ministry to receive a "strong protest" over border shelling incidents on 14 and 16 August in Bajaur and Kurram Agencies in which 1 person was killed and 14 others wounded, Karachi radio reported.

FANT Troops Repulse Libyan Counterattack in Aozou

Mirage Shot Down Over Bardai

AB201936 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1903 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Communique No 75 issued by the FANT High Command on 20 August in Ndjamena]

[Text] The fight against Al-Qadhdhafi's troops continues unabatedly in the Tibesti Region. This afternoon, a Mirage plane [as heard] was shot down over the town of Bardai. The FANT are determined to inflict more bitter defeat on the occupational forces.

405 Libyans Killed

AB211442 Paris AFP in French 1428 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] Ndjamena, 21 Aug (AFP) — A total of 405 Libyan soldiers, among them some officers, were killed and 161 others were captured on 19 August by the Chadian forces, following four successive Libyan attacks which were repulsed by the Chadian troops in the Aozou Strip at the extreme end of the Chadian-Libyan border, the Chadian Army Headquarters announced on 21 August. The Army Headquarters pointed out that the Chadians captured or destroyed several heavy weapons and fighter planes belonging to the enemy.

France Confirms Libyan Defeat

AU211117 Paris AFP in English 1109 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] Paris, Aug 21 (AFP) — The French Defense Ministry confirmed Friday that Chadian troops have repelled a Libyan counter-attack on Aozou, the main locality in the disputed border area between Chad and Libya, on Wednesday.

Ministry officials said they received information Thursday confirming Chadian claims that the Libyan army had suffered a "new defeat" in the Aozou Strip.

Chadian military officials announced Thursday in Ndjamena that troops of the Paris-backed Chadian Government of Hissein Habre fought off four Libyan attacks against Aozou Wednesday.

It was Libya's third defeat in the past two weeks in Aozou. The Libyans on August 8 lost control of the town of Aozou which they had occupied since 1973 and last Friday failed in a first offensive to retake it.

French military sources said that Wednesday's unsuccessful offensive was "a severe defeat inflicted on the Libyans" especially with regard to the large resources, especially troops, that Tripoli had thrown into the offensive.

French authorities believe that the toll provided by the Chadians "globally reflects the reality" of the battlefield, authorized sources here said.

Ndjamena said it had killed 291 Libyan soldiers and captured 39 others in the attack, while its troops suffered only 15 dead and 21 wounded.

Meanwhile, in Bamako, Chadian Information Minister Adoum Moussa Seif appealed to France to extend its air support to northern Chad.

France provides military assistance to Chad only south of the 16th parallel, about halfway across the country.

But Defense Ministry Andre Giraud said last week that France did not rule out "any means, including military" to help Chad maintain its territorial sovereignty while stressing that military operations in the Aozou Strip "do not concern France."

Mr. Moussa Seif said: "Every day, we ask the French Government to extend the Epervier system (the code-name for France's air cover in Chad) to protect our fighting forces but also civilian populations" in the north.

Speaking after a meeting with Malian Premier Mamadou Dembele, Mr. Moussa said that Libya had an air combat superiority in the north and that civilian populations there were systematic targets of Libyan "toxic gas, napalm and fragmentation bombs."

Libya Said Sending Reinforcements to Sudan

AB201141 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] [Words indistinct] maneuvers which are of no secret to anyone, Al-Qadhdhafi continues to send reinforcements and ammunition to the border area between Chad and Sudan, the Darfour Region. Sources close to Khartoum state that Libyan soldiers equipped with heavy weapons can be found all over the region of Ouadi Saleh, near (Ampetei) and (Ambanda). Landrovers continue to supply weapons all over the Darfour Region. These maneuvers [words indistinct] unknown to the Sudanese Government, as two vehicles carrying weapons have been seized by the local authorities, who have called on the Sudanese Government to take strict measures to put an end to this problem.

Also, according to certain sources, smuggling of slaves is currently going on in southern Sudan. Thousands of southern Sudanese, mostly 15-year-old teenagers, have been (?smuggled) to the north of the country. Libya is financing this inhuman trade in the north of the country with the aim of drafting the slaves into the Islamic Legion. A group of these slaves has already been recruited into the Islamic Legion, which is financed by Al-Qadhdhafi.

This shameful trade practiced by the Libyan regime affects not only Chad, but Sudan too, because Libya aims to annex the Darfour area. Therefore, the Libyan threat to Chad (?via) Sudan is more real than ever.

'Abd al-Majid Comments on Foreign Policy

NC210556 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 20 Aug (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has reiterated Egypt's firm support for an international conference on peace in the Middle East to be attended by all the parties concerned, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, and the PLO in its capacity as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid pointed out that Egypt's position on the international conference is not subject to change, noting that this conference will lead to direct negotiations to resolve the Palestinian issue. Dr 'Abd al-Majid stressed the PLO's right to name the 50 Palestinian delegates to the talks. He said that a solution reached through such an international conference would be adopted through understanding and conciliation among the parties concerned, not by one party imposing a solution on another.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid made these remarks to a seminar held at the Journalists Association headquarters in Alexandria this evening, where he discussed Egyptian foreign policy and Egypt's views of ongoing events at an Arab and international level. Dr 'Abd al-Majid stressed that talks are continuing between Egypt and the PLO, Jordan, the United Nations, and all the other parties concerned.

When asked about Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's opposition to the international conference, Dr 'Abd al- Majid replied: We know very well what Shamir's position is on this issue. He is calling for two alternatives: First, to hold autonomy talks between Israel and Jordan similar to those held by Egypt and Israel. To this we say that Jordan is not included in the Camp David accords; therefore, it is not committed by them. The second alternative excludes the Soviet Union from the international conference. Our reply is that the Soviet Union is a superpower and one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council; therefore, it must attend the conference. He added that the question of an international conference has virtually become a domestic problem in Israel. He also noted that the United States, European countries, African states, and the Nonaligned Movement now accept the idea of an international conference.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid then spoke about Egyptian-Israeli relations, his recent visit to Israel to promote the peace process and the international conference, and an earlier meeting between President Mubarak and Shim'on Peres after signing the arbitral compromis on the Tabah issue. He stressed that the history of Egyptian-Israeli negotiations is an honorable one for the Egyptian negotiator, who is always characterized by patience and intelligence and who never forsakes Egypt's rights. He noted that the process of negotiation is a difficult one which takes time and requires much effort. This is proof of our ability to stand up for our rights and cause, he said. Dr 'Abd al-Majid recalled that a session was held in Geneva in May at which the Egyptian and Israeli teams submitted memorandums, documents, and maps on the Tabah issue. Another session will be held in October at which each team will submit its response to the other's memorandum, he added. Dr 'Abd al-Majid continued: Our position is stronger, and we are backed by documents, maps, and historical, legal, geographical, and topographical evidence. We hope to obtain a verdict that will return Tabah to Egypt.

Responding to a question about the U.S. compromise on the Tabah issue, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the arbitration process is proceeding according to rules which have been agreed upon. Tabah is an integral part of Egyptian territory. We are proceeding with the arbitration procedures, and our documents and evidence strengthen our position, he added.

When asked about the repercussions of the Gulf War, Dr 'Abd al-Majid described these as serious. He added: Iranian intransigence is evident, and its determination to cling to its policy and to reject any peaceful settlement became more clear after the approval of the UN Security Council's recent resolution to end the Gulf war. This resolution was approved unanimously, for the first time. It has put Iran on the defensive and isolated it internationally. The current situation is not satisfactory for Iran, which must lose politically unless it does something, he added. We do not underestimate the current political situation, and we believe time will force Iran to reconsider, the foreign minister asserted.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid described the situation in the Gulf as serious, noting that it could lead to the destruction of not only the two warring parties but the entire region as well. He referred to the impact of this war on the recent events in Mecca and the thoughtless violation of the sanctity of holy places. We were all shocked by these events, and we are studying the repercussions, he added.

With regard to President Mubarak's call for an Islamic summit, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that this call came in response to the grave events taking place in the region, noting that the Islamic nations must come together in such circumstances. Egypt believes that such incidents must be resolved by all the Muslims together; otherwise, we can expect more tragedies and problems. However, we have received no answer from the Islamic states, he stated.

Asked about the mining of waterways, Dr 'Abd al-Majid asserted that we must alwayr be ready and alert to attempts to undermine the stability we now enjoy in Egypt.

As for Egypt's assistance to Iraq in its war with Iran, the foreign minister said that Egypt's political position is one of support for the Iraqis in the face of Iranian hegemony. Iran must realize that things are not so simple now as it thought they were when it started the war. He stressed that there is not a single Egyptian soldier outside Egyptian borders. Sending soldiers abroad is a serious matter requiring great thought, he added.

With regard to Egyptian-Sudanese relations, 'Dr Abd al-Majid said that Sudan and Egypt are very close and linked by common interests. Sudan now suffers from economic difficulties, as well as the problem of the South, and we are trying to help ease these problems. During the African summit in Addis Ababa, President Mubarak was eager to reconcile Ethiopian and Sudanese views and to help Sudan solve its economic problems, he added. However, Egypt does not interfere in Sudanese internal affairs. We hope Sudan can resolve it difficulties and restore stability,

because this in turn would serve the common interests of the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples, he added. [passage omitted]

Dr 'Abd al-Majid then spoke about Egypt's adherence to the policy of nonalignment, noting that Egypt's interests are paramount and its cooperation with all countries is in accordance with these interests. He noted that Egypt's foreign policy is stable, unlike the haphazard policies adopted by some Arab states. Egypt's foreign policy is characterized by wisdom, continuity, and objectivity, and it does not believe in empty words, he declared.

As for a resumption of relations between Egypt and the Arab world, Dr 'Abd al-Majid stated that Egypt is not begging for this. We reject any preconditions on the resumption of these relations, because it was the Arabs who severed their ties with us; therefore, they should reinstate them. For our part, we have established no preconditions for resuming these relations.

With regard to Egyptian-Soviet ties, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that they are characterized by friendship, cooperation, understanding, and mutual appreciation. He noted that there has been improvement in Egyptian-Soviet relations. He added that Egypt is promoting its relations with the superpowers without restrictions or conditions, but only according to Egypt's higher interests.

Commenting on the Libyan-Chadian war, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Libya's defeat in Chad was very harsh, that Libya's air raids on Aozou are inefficient, and that military movements in this mountainous area are very difficult. He noted that the troops of President Hissein Habre, whom Egypt considers to be the legitimate Chadian president, have recaptured the Aozou region north of Chad, an area rich in uranium which Libya claims as part of its territory. He noted that the Libyan and Chadian sides are currently heading for international arbitration to resolve the Aozou issue. [passage omitted]

Concluding the seminar, Dr 'Abd al-Majid affirmed Egypt's Arab, Islamic, and African affiliation, its leading role in the Nonalignment Movement, its full support for liberation causes, its firm belief in Egyptian sovereignty and independence, and its commitment to its international obligations and the principles of international law. He also stressed Egypt's adherence to its political and military doctrines, noting that the country enjoys a unique democratic system in this part of the world.

Cairo Experts Will Train Arab Unified Army

PM201025 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 11 Aug 87 p 1

['Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar report: "Arab Summit in October To Build Unified Arab Army To Confront Iran"]

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Cairo have confirmed that the GCC states have decided to use [Egyptian] technical and combat expertise to train the unified Gulf armies formed this year. Egyptian experts will train the Gulf air force, as well as infantry, in the latest tactics. Emphasis will be placed on raising the combat capability of air defense units. The same sources confirmed that the expected use of Egyptian expertise during the next stage would be very limited, since the experts will number nearly 500 [figure as published]. The sources expect the political leadership in Egypt to respond to all military requests from the Gulf states. Three months ago Egypt announced its readiness to defend the Gulf states if they were exposed to a direct Iranian threat. The Gulf states are currently embarking on a large-scale replacement operation among members of the armed forces, replacing foreign elements in sensitive units with Arab volunteers, most of whom are Egyptians, Sudanese, and Moroccans. The sources added that leaders of the states on the front line with Iran will in the near future hold a meeting in Riyadh to discuss the possibility of forming a unified Arab army to counter Iranian threats to the states in the region. This is in implementation of the joint Arab defense pact agreed upon by all the Arab League's member states. The sources expect this meeting to be held during the first week of September.

The idea of forming a unified Arab army is thought to be included in the agenda of the Arab summit conference, expected to be held in Riyadh next October, when most Arab states agree. The issue of imposing economic sanctions on Arab states whose involvement in supplying Iran with arms has been proven, as well as the issue of suspending the membership of those states refusing to adopt a unified Arab stand to confront the Iranian threat, will also be discussed.

Arab, African Ambassadors Summoned on Chad Issue

LD201344 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison summoned the Arab ambassadors in the Great Jamahiriyah this morning. The committee briefed the ambassadors on current developments with regard to the imperialist and colonialist aggression against the southern border of the Great Jamahiriyah, as well as the various aspects of this aggression and the danger it represents to the Arab region and to Africa.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison explained to the Arab ambassadors the neocolonialist role played by the imperialist forces that have taken over Chad. It noted that these forces are using it for the implementation of their objectives against the great Al-Fatih revolution and the Arab nation.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison also summoned the ambassadors of the African countries to the Great Jamahiriyah this morning and informed them of developments with regard to the imperialist aggression against the southern border of the Great Jamahiriyah. The committee emphasized that the presence of French forces in Chad constitutes a growing danger which threatens the security and stability of the Great Jamahiriyah and which heightens the acute tension in the region.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison told the African ambassadors that the presence of French forces in Chad has become more serious as the result of several factors, including the step taken by imperialist states to give support, cover, and protection to agent Habre. The committee pointed out that the presence of French forces in Chad has no justification whatsoever except the insistence of the French Government to offer support and protection to agent Habre and to give him the possibility of devoting himself to launching aggression against neighboring countries.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison also affirmed to the African ambassadors that the OAU has always considered the presence of foreign forces in Chad to be a major obstacle on the road to peace and stability. There is no excuse for its silence over the continued presence of French forces in Chad. The committee said that the OAU has been asked to give this question utmost importance, to act for the withdrawal of French forces in Chad, and to undertake efforts to resolve the Chadian problem with all its political, social, and military aspects.

European Envoys Informed of 'Aggression' in South

LD201625 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Aug (JANA)—The People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau summoned the ambassadors of Italy, Greece, and Spain and the Yugoslav charge d'affaires this afternoon to inform them about the reality of the imperialist aggression against the southern border of the Great Jamahiriyah.

The committee pointed out to these ambassadors that Chad has become a lenient tool for the implementation of imperialist designs against the Great Jamahiriyah and the Arab nation. It is the right of the Libyan people to take all the necessaary measures to ensure the defense of their land and sovereignty and to secure all the borders of their country.

The committee urged the ambassadors to act through their governments to request France to withdraw its forces and to end its military presence in Chad and its unlimited assistance to agent Habre. The committee also stressed that it is primarily the OAU's task to resolve the Chadian problem and to bring about peace throughout that country.

Al-Qadhdhafi, French-Arab Solidarity Official Meet

LD202033 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
1930 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Mr Lucien Bitterlin, president of the Association of Franco-Arab Solidarity. Mr Bitterlin informed the brother leader of the association's support for the people of the Great Jamahiriyah against various challenges. He emphasized that his association is making efforts to ensure that friendship and cooperation prevail in Arab-French relations, something which will serve the interests of the French and Arab nations.

Mr Bitterlin then presented the brother leader with a book about President Hafiz al-Asad.

Leaders Ask Iraqi Opposition To 'Freeze' Activities

NC191149 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic
17 Aug 87 p 6, 7

[Text] The Libyan leadership has asked the Iraqi opposition to freeze its activities against Saddam Husayn until the Iraq-Iran war ends, for circumstances then would be more appropriate for action to overthrow him.

This was reported in the 30 July, sixth edition, of the *Al-Badil Al-Islami* publication, mouthpiece of the Al-Da'wah Party, which represents the Islamic opposition in Iraq. The publication pointed out that a delegation representing the Iraq (Jud) Front, which includes the Communist Party among other groups, visited Libya in early July and met with 'Abdallah Hijazi, an individual close to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. Hijazi told the delegation that the Libyan leadership is convinced that Iran has covetous designs on the Arab homeland, particularly Iraq and the Gulf. Hijazi noted that the Iranians want to establish sectarian regimes in the region. The Libyan leadership maintains that despite Saddam Husayn's dictatorship, Iraq, from a practical and realistic point of view, is defending the Arab homeland's eastern gate. The Libyan leadership notes that all Arab countries and liberation movements must make the utmost effort to stop the war and to thwart the Iranian scheme. Hijazi conveyed the Libyan leadership's readiness to immediately establish unity with Iraq if the latter were to agree. He also told the delegation that the next stage will witness positive developments between Iraq and Libya. He reiterated the Libyan leadership's conviction that the Iraqi

opposition is now passing through a critical and sensitive stage; therefore, it cannot fight Iran in defense of Iraq and it is not in its interest to support Iran against Saddam. Libya believes that the Iraqi opposition should freeze its activities until the end of the war. Hijazi noted that the Libyan leadership rejects Kurdish rebel support for Iran's invasion of Iraq and its bombardment of Iraqi areas, despite the leadership's backing of the Kurdish nation's legitimate rights to self-determination.

Al-Qadhdhafi Seeks Palestinian Reconciliation
NC201005 Paris AFP in English 0938 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] Amman, Aug 20 (AFP) — Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has invited pro-Syrian Palestinian leaders to areconciliation meeting with the PLO leadership September 1 in Tripoli, Palestinian sources said here Wednesday.

The sources added that Khalil al-Wazir, better known as Abu Jihad, commander of the Palestine Liberation Organization military forces under Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, was holding talks with Libyan leaders in Tripoli to arrange the reunification meeting.

Mr. al-Qadhdhafi invited the four Damascus-based Palestinian factions that boycotted April's meeting of the Palestine National Council, which serves as the PLO'S parliament-in-exile.

The four — Samir Ghawshah's Popular Struggle Front, Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, 'Isam al-Qadi's Al-Sa'iqah Party and Abu Musa's Al-Fatah Uprising — rejected an appeal issued last week by Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih to attend a late August meeting of the PLO Central Council (PLOCC), the PLO's number-two governing body, which he chairs.

A well-informed Palestinian source said the Tripoli talks would be an alternative to attending the PLOCC meeting.

Large Numbers of Rebels Reportedly Surrender

JN201127 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic
1040 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Aug (SUNA) — The newspaper *Sawt al-Ummah*, mouthpiece of the Al-Ummah Party, today said large numbers of rebels laid down their arms and surrendered to the Armed Forces after the latter had taken full control of the rebel areas and also as a result of a growing desire for peace, which prompted the government to allocate a special budget to meet the subsistence and settlement of the returning fighters.

The paper also said reports from the eastern borders affirm that Karbino [name as received], the fourth-in- command in the Garang Movement, and William Noon [name as received], the third-in-command in the Movement, split from Garang after killing four Ethiopian intelligence officers and entering Sudanese territory.

Al-Ummah said the increased Armed Forces' efforts as well as the growing desire for peace by southerners who had joined the rebellion, are the major reason for the fragmentation of the rebel movement.

National Unionist Party To Make SPLM Contacts

JN201142 Khartoum SUNA in English
1025 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 20 (SUNA) — The National Unionist Party decided to make immediate contacts with the Sudanese People Liberation Movement "SPLM" of Col. John Garang, the daily *Al-Sudani* published here today quoted the party's Chairman 'Ali Muhamud Hasanayn as saying.

Hasanayn accused the government of leading the country to a deadlock saying that it speaks sometimes about the peaceful solution for the southern Sudan problem and sometimes about the military option for solution of the said question without really leaning to any one of the two options.

Hasanayn further went on to say that the current coalition government is trying to solve the country's main problems by theory without any practical steps.

Reports on Anya Nya II-SPLA Contacts 'Unfounded'

JN201826 Khartoum SUNA in English
1717 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, Aug. 20, SUNA — Recent reports, mediation between the rebel movement of Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the pro-government forces of Anya Nya-Two have been described by the latter as "unfounded". [sentence as received]

Deputy commander of the Anya Nya-Two forces, better known as "The Friendly Forces", Brigadier Fawlino Matyb Nial [name as received] has indicated that his movement has no contact or mediation with the SPLA.

He indicated that Anya Nya Two was doing its best to distance the Nuer tribesmen from the SPLA whose major backers are from the Dinka tribesmen.

The recent encounter between the Malakal governor, the Anya Nya Two representative Mr. Daniel Koat [name as received] was aimed at pulling out Nuer from SPLA ranks, he asserted.

It is to be noted that press reports yesterday pointed that Daniel Koat, a former official in the government of Al-Numayri and currently leading a movement parallel to Anya Nya Two and named Anya Nya Three, has contacted SPLA and Anya Nya Two for a rapprochement mediation.

The Anya Nya Two spokesman affirmed that the moves of his forces to extradite Nuer people from SPLA were known by the "Sudanese People's" regular armed forces.

The Anya Nya Two possible contact with SPLA is conditional with the surrender of "SPLA leader" John Garang to the government in Khartoum, he said.

It is understood that Anya Nya Two forces are anti-SPLA movement that is mainly armed by the government to repulse the four-year bush war carried by the SPLA against the government in Khartoum. Anya Nya Two is referred to as the friendly forces.

DUP, Other Party Leaders View 'National Government'

JN201805 Khartoum SUNA in English
1710 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, Aug. 20 SUNA — Spiritual leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) Sayyid Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani and representatives from the Sudanese Communist Party and Ba'th Arab Socialist Party have exchanged views over the (DUP) initiative regarding the formation of a national government to help the country surmount the current political impasse.

Secretary general of the Sudanese Communist Party, Muhammad Ibrahim Nuqud and Parliament democratic opposition leader, Dr. 'Izz al-Din 'Ali 'Amir, have explained, during their meeting here yesterday with Al-Mirghani, that the Sudanese Communist Party supports "the national orientation" but not "the formation of a national government."

They argued that if the said national government failed, this would lead to suspension of that national orientation which the Communist Party supports.

As for the Ba'th Party representatives, they emphasized that they do not support the establishment of a national comprehensive government, a move which is regarded as showing certain reserves over participation by some political forces, apparently the National Islamic Front "NIF", in the proposed national government.

Human Rights Group Condemns State of Emergency

JN191846 Khartoum SUNA in English
1730 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, Aug. 19 (SUNA) — The Sudanese Organization for Human Rights has denounced the declaration of the state of emergency by the chairman of the State Council last July 26.

Deputy Chairman of the Sudanese Organization for Human Rights Amin Makki Madani described, in a press conference held here today the declaration of the state of emergency as a violation to the human rights and freedom and as an unconstitutional decision.

The secretary general of the Organization for Human Rights condemned the arrest of the elements of former President al-Numayri, describing it as a violation to their rights. He called for the release of the followers of Al- Numayri, cancellation of Sept Islamic laws which were imposed by ousted Al-Numayri in 1983 and issuing democratic and secular laws.

SUNA Employees Suspend Planned 22 Aug Strike

JN201534 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic
1455 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Aug (SUNA) — The SUNA employees' unions grouping has suspended the planned 3-day strike scheduled to begin Saturday [22 August].

In a statement issued today, the unions grouping said that the strike, which was declared on 15 August, was suspended because of the favorable response from many state officials to the employees' demands. The grouping also indicated that consultations have been completed on possible solutions to all issues raised by the SUNA employees' unions. It is to be recalled that Al-Tum Muhammad al-Tum, minister of state for culture and information, decided yesterday to form a committee headed by the deputy director of the Public Service Department to discuss SUNA's problems. The committee is to submit its report within 2 weeks.

SPLA: Independent Sources Confirm Wau 'Massacre'

EA201558 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English
1300 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] Independent sources have confirmed reports of the recent massacre of civilians by the Khartoum government army inside the town of Wau. According to a BBC broadcast, relief agencies operating in Wau say that a massacre of civilians did take place inWau lately. The relief agencies gave no figures as to the number of people they believed were killed. A Radio SPLA correspondent in Bahr al-Ghazal said earlier that a total of 600 civilians perished at the hands of Khartoum government forces in Wau on 11 and 12 of this month after being rounded up at three separate residential areas and shot dead.

Reliable sources have told Radio SPLA that Major General Abu Qurun 'Adbillah Abu Qurun, the present military commander for Bahr al-Ghazal, who ordered the massacre, had been transferred to Wau by the Army General Headquarters in Khartoum for the purpose of intimidating the civilian population through murder and harassment. He and his other two colleagues who were lately appointed as Army commanders for Equatoria and Upper Nile are widely regarded by the Army General Headquarters in Khartoum as particularly tough and ruthless officers who could be counted upon to terrorize the civilian population in the south into submissiveness.

Radio SPLA: 39 Killed in 7 Aug Ambush, Explosion

EA201615 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English
1300 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Excerpts] An ambush conducted between Ngangala and Ilangari on Juba-Torit road on 7th August 1987 by SPLA forces of Tingili, Tafeng, and (?Taryang) claimed the lives of 7 enemy soldiers and 15 militiamen. [passage omitted] According to a Radio SPLA correspondent, 17 more enemy soldiers were killed after their truck, which had slipped through the ambush, was blown up by a land mine only 5 miles away from Torit. [passage omitted] The powerful blast which killed all those on board was caused by the huge quantity of ammunition and explosives the truck was carrying, our correspondent said. [passage omitted]

SPLA Captures East Equatoria Areas

EA201901 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English
1300 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Excerpt] SPLA forces operating in the eastern bank of Eastern Equatoria under the overall command of Lieutenant Colonel Gilario Modi Horinyang have overrun (Abo) and (Aliya) and asserted their control over the surrounding area up to Palotaka. Our correspondent in Eastern Equatoria says that (Abo) and (Aliya) were simultaneously caputured on 20th July 1987 following an attack launched by the forces of Tingili, Commando, (Lazim), (Taryang), and Sunki under the direct command of Lieutenant Colonel (Arum Manshot). Fifty-five enemy soldiers and 42 militiamen were killed during the attack on (Abo) and (Aliya). [passage omitted]

Cairo Paper Interviews SPLM Leader Garang

JN160809 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic
14 Aug 87 pp 34-39

[Interview with Colonel John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, by Makram Muhammad Ahmad on 29 July during the OAU summit in Addis Ababa]

[Text] [Ahmad] We still recall what you said last year. You said you would try to exert every effort to show your goodwill and that you expected Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to fulfill his promise concerning the Islamic Shari'a. However, 2 weeks after we left you, there was the downing of the civilian plane. We believe you lost a great deal as a result of this incident, especially since it involved a

civilian plane carrying civilians. What is your opinion on what happened at that time?

[Garang] Indeed, we shot down that plane.

[Ahmad] Why?

[Garang] What happened was similar to what happened to the Korean plane spotted by Soviet radar. All I can say is that you can shoot down any plane in wartime. There is a small war going on between us. What happened did not give Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi the right to undermine peace. All we did was shoot down a plane, but Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi undermined the entire peace process. When you look at the two incidents you will find that there is no room for comparison. Hitting a plane is not like striking at peace.

[Ahmad] As we said earlier, you wanted to show your goodwill and you approved the Koka Dam agreement. So what is the difference between shooting down that plane and undermining peace? A plan is a plan.

[Garang] As I said before, war is not an easy thing. When some people die for the sake of national objectives, others mourn and then recover. There was a period of grief after the plane incident, but people soon recovered and returned to their normal life.

[Ahmad] But peace means the supension of all acts of war.

[Garang] When we speak about that, we mean a cease- fire. Peace means the suspension of all hostilities and this is governed by a cease-fire. One of the provisions of the Koka Dam agreement calls for the declaration of a cease-fire to be honored by both sides. We signed the Koka Dam agreement before the plane incident. We also warned Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi against sending planes to the south because arms were being sent on planes belonging to private companies. We warned him and told him we knew that arms and military equipment were being sent on civilian planes and that we would shoot down any kind of plane. This warning was clear and frank. We also broadcast it over our radio before the plane incident.

[Ahmad] Still, that kind of a warning does not give you the right to shoot down a civilian plane.

[Garang] The reason is clear. Civilian planes were being used to carry military cargo. We cannot tell if a civilian plane is carrying civilians or weapons. We suspect any plane flying in our airspace. The result is that innocent civilians suffer. We had already warned against dispatching planes of any kind. It was a general warning, covering both military and civilian planes.

[Ahmad] But I believe civilian planes were, at that time, transporting food to those who were trapped during the period of starvation.

[Garang] The Khartoum government mixes relief and military planes. And in this regard, I want to mention the Rumbek incident in which we downed a military helicopter that was carrying a bishop and relief workers. This mixing of military and civilian planes is confusing. Why do relief workers board military planes? The helicopter was carrying a bishop, the Rumbek area commander, and Colonel Muwat [name as published], the Bahr al-Ghazal region commander who was also the executive officer of the whole region. All these people were on board the helicopter. We downed it while it was carrying relief workers because it was a military aircraft. Later, we learned it was carrying a church bishop. Hence, incidents occur when the missions of civilian and military planes are combined.

[Ahmad] But surely you lost the support of some people in Khartoum and also some popular support because of the plane incident.

[Garang] No. This incident has not robbed us of popular support. Immediately following the incident, a demonstration organized by the government was staged against us, and in that demonstration, clashes occurred between our supporters and those instigated by the government.

[Ahmad] Let us say that after meeting John Garang in Addis Ababa, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi tried to prove to people in Khartoum that the situation had begun to change a little. Therefore, he dispatched a civilian plane to the region. This is the message Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was sending. What message did you give to Al-Mahdi by downing the plane. What did you want to say?

[Garang] I met with Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi for 9 or 10 hours, but he left Addis Ababa saying that he will intensify the war against southern Sudan, that the people of southern Sudan will suffer because of this war, and that they will also be totally exterminated. He also said this during the meeting.

Al-Mahdi wanted to say that we met for 9 hours, while in fact we met for 9 hours. At that time, I told him that if we cannot tell people the facts regarding the duration of our talks, what then can we tell them about the problems we discussed during our meeting? In the end, we reached a compromise which allowed us to say that we held a lengthy meeting without specifying the number of hours. When Al-Mahdi came to the meeting he was only ready for one thing; namely, to talk to us from a position of strength. Therefore, he sent us an intensely offensive message by dispatching the plane. Preparations for the operation were under way while we were meeting in Addis Ababa. We agreed on a cease-fire and reached an understanding. But after the meeting civilian planes were used for military purposes. A significant incident took place in Togo where a plane was discovered trying to make the trip back to Khartoum after troops had unloaded an arms consignment from the plane. That plane was a civilian one.

[Ahmad] But what would have happened had all passengers on board the plane been civilians?

[Garang] Civilians and troops were on board the plane.

[Ahmad] But most of them were civilians.

[Garang] Civilians and troops were on board the plane, but the important point is that the Sudanese Army was using civilian planes to transport arms, military equipment, and troops when the plane was downed. Furthermore, we do not have radar that reveals the planeload before the plane is downed.

[Ahmad] Was the 30-day period fixed by Al-Mahdi to cancel the implementation of Islamic Shari'a a sort of truce? Al-Mahdi said that within 30 days he would change the laws and pave the way for holding a preliminary meeting on the Constitution.

[Garang] That is what Al-Mahdi said.

[Ahmad] You also told me that.

[Garang] Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi came carrying a program of rights. He was preparing to amend the laws before he came to meet us. And he had a program for issuing new laws 1 month after the meeting. He submitted his draft laws to the attorney general and this had nothing to do with our meeting. He would have done this even if we had not met.

[Ahmad] Was this not one of your demands?

[Garang] The plan was actually presented to the attorney general. It does not demand the abrogation of previous laws but suggests alternative Islamic laws. It was not to abrogate Shari'a laws but to replace them. He said he would present genuine Islamic laws. This is not what we demand. We do not demand genuine Islamic laws but that is what Al-Mahdi said — genuine Islamic laws. He is still saying the same thing 1 year after the meeting. There has been no change.

[Ahmad] Has Al-Mahdi told you this?

[Garang] This is what Al-Mahdi is saying publically, not to me personally.

[Ahmad] Then I will correct what Al-Mahdi said. He said he would go to Khartoum and stop the application of Islamic laws?

[Garang] No, he said that he presented the new laws to the attorney general to replace previous laws. We did not agree on this. This is his own program, and he had already begun to implement it before coming to Addis Ababa.

[Ahmad] And who influenced Al-Mahdi in this program? Changing the laws was one of your top demands.

[Garang] This is what the Koka Dam agreement stipulated, and I would like to remind you that this agreement involves Sudan's political forces and not solely the people of the south. It was an agreement among all the political forces in Sudan.

[Ahmad] But at the same time this program expresses your demands?

[Garang] It expresses our demands insofar as we are among the Sudanese political forces. We are not outside these forces.

[Ahmad] But when Al-Mahdi says he will implement genuine Shari'ah laws, this does not mean he will adhere to all the previous laws.

[Garang] Then what will he do? This is very interesting because it is difficult to know what goes on in Al-Mahdi's mind.

[Ahmad] Perhaps he wants to enact new laws to be applied to Muslim areas but not others. He might think it is not proper now to cut off a thief's hand — that from the Islamic viewpoint one cannot cut off a thief's hand before food and jobs are available for the people. This is what Al-Mahdi said. He said he would fight poverty before taking people to task. Therefore, when Al-Mahdi says he will try to enact new, genuine Shari'a laws, he does not mean he will adhere to everything in the previous laws.

[Garang] Al-Mahdi has changed nothing; 1 year has passed with no changes, so do not try to defend him.

[Ahmad] Mr Garang, we met last year and had a very objective discussion. We also published everything you said without any interference on our part. We still want our discussion to be objective.

[Garang] Our previous discussion was objective, but you have abandoned objectivity this time.

[Ahmad] Let us approach the question from another side. When you met with Al-Mahdi last year, did you not know that he needed more time to prepare himself to face his party, his people, and his allies in Khartoum? Instead of giving him this chance you hit the plane.

[Garang] Al-Mahdi himself did not stop fighting us despite his need for time.

[Ahmad] But you are not only a military man but a politician as well. You can appreciate the complex circumstances surrounding Al-Mahdi, and I think that the downing of the plane had a bad effect, giving the hardliners like Hasan al-Turabi a pretext to stick to their hardline positions. Hasan al-Turabi says his philosophy is better than that of Al-Mahdi.

[Garang] Hasan al-Turabi is always shouting, whether we down planes or not. This is the nature of the political struggle in Khartoum. There are other things that Al-Mahdi must take into consideration. There is the problem in the south, Al-Turabi's ideas, and Al-Mirghani, who is struggling with Al-Mahdi despite not being in the coalition government. There is fighting in the south. This is the true nature of the struggle in Khartoum. Therefore, Al- Mahdi faces many enemies. Regarding the south, Al-Mahdi has done nothing since the plane was downed almost 1 year ago. We know that the Americans dropped a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima, but they and the Japanese are now allies. I think we have talked a lot about the plane incident, but not as much about what happened after that. We have not talked about the emergency law. Al-Mahdi did not abrogate the law. He has strengthened it, reimplementing it a few days ago.

[Ahmad] But the law existed before Al-Mahdi took over.

[Garang] That is right. Numayri proclamed an emergency, Siwar al-Dhahab proclamed an emergency, and Al- Mahdi is now entrenching this practice. Do not try to say that Al-Mahdi did not promulgate the emergency law in the country.

[Ahmad] I mean that the emergency law was promulgated before. Rather than entrench it, Al-Mahdi renewed this law for 1 year.

[Garang] Do you mean to say he renewed the law or that he promulgated it?

[Ahmad] I mean the state of emergency was reimplemented. We know that the state of emergency has not been lifted since the Numayri era, both during and after military rule. Therefore, the law was reimplemented year after year.

[Garang] Some negative internal circumstances have appeared since Al-Mahdi announced emergency law. We cannot now hear Omdurman radio because of the radio and television employees' strike. The law aims at controlling strikes. Strikes and demonstrations have been staged over the past 3 weeks. Actually, Al-Mahdi tried to confront that smartly. He attempted to ease press comments by preventing the importation of paper.

[Ahmad] Some say that the plane incident was not of your volition, that your men downed the plane without your permission, and that you should have announced responsibility for the incident.

[Garang] This issue must be settled. I issued a public warning against the arrival of any plane of any type to the war zone. This is because Al-Mahdi uses civilian planes for transporting military shipments. We warned Khartoum that static defense units would be deployed as of 1500 hours [not further specified] to down any plane — military or civilian — penetrating the war zone. The decision to down the plane was issued by the Command.

[Ahmad] What did the downing of the plane achieve for you on the military and political levels?

[Garang] On the military level, flights to Juba, Malakal, and Wau were suspended for 3 months. After that planes began to arrive irregularly. Military and human reinforcements to the war zone were also suspended. The deterrence was sufficient.

[Ahmad] In a previous interview with me you said you were responsible for taking care of the excavator at the Jonglei Canal. You also said that it would not be harmed and that it was under the protection of your men. You added that you were inclined toward the Jonglei Canal because it was the topic of your doctoral thesis and because it will change life in the south. Then suddenly we learned that the excavator had been destroyed.

[Garang] Our men did not touch this excavator. As for me I still adhere to my conviction. The excavator was hit by two unidentified planes. However, the effect of the blow was minor. I am ready to invite Egyptian engineers to inspect the excavator. However, the main problem is that the canal has filled up with earth because of negligence and digging operations.

[Ahmad] Were the planes Ethiopian?

[Garang] I do not think so.

[Ahmad] Were they Libyan?

[Garang] I do not know.

[Ahmad] What was their identity?

[Garang] Our men could not specify their identity.

[Ahmad] Who benefits from striking at the excavator?

[Garang] He who does not want life in the south to change and does not want Egypt and Sudan to benefit from larger quantities of Nile water. The current problem there implies this: The canal was designed to be 360 km long from Bahr al-Sabat [name as published] to Bor, the capital city of Jonglei. Only 270 km were dug. Work was suspended afterward for a long time because of rains. The area dug out is now full of water. The digging of the canal has flooded the area with water. When that area became full of water, the extra water had to be directed toward the east. This created a swamp. The rest of the canal was not dug. At the same time floods and rains are still continuing. Therefore, it was necessary to continue digging. This is the situation with the canal.

[Ahmad] What is the situation regarding the conflict in Sudan?

[Garang] The conflict continues.

[Ahmad] Is there hope of reaching a solution?

[Garang] Of course there is hope for peace. Every war has to end with peace. Contacts are currently taking place in Khartoum. However, these contacts are not encouraging.

[Ahmad] What is happening in Khartoum?

[Garang] The situation in Khartoum is not encouraging, because Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has chosen to opt for the military solution since I met him. He announced on radio and television that he will obliterate us by December 1986 and that he will hold the national constitutional conference in January 1987. And of course, this is a very aggressive stand. He announced that he will retake Muma, Fashala, and Yaru [place-names as published]. Al-Mahdi declared his intention to achieve his military objectives regarding these three places. Yaru is located west of the Nile River. Fashala and Muma are in the Upper Nile region in the east and they are main canals [tayyarat] for distributing the Nile waters. Muma is a tourist city where many safari animals can be found. Many sources confirmed that Al-Mahdi wants to celebrate the 6 October [not further identified] anniversary in Muma after December 1986 and January 1987 elapsed without achieving anything despite the fact that he himself has not made this objective public. Hence, Al-Mahdi has persisted with his aggressive policy. When I held a press conference in December, I exposed his aggressive military plans and objectives as well as the code names given to his military operations. We knew his plans in advance and made our preparations. Al-Mahdi sought to defeat us in May after he had failed to do so in December. As a matter of fact, for Al-Mahdi, dialogue and war go hand in hand. He speaks about dialogue while drawing up military plans.

[Ahmad] This took place after your meeting last year?

[Garang] Yes, after our meeting. When we met, I addressed him saying that I knew what he would do when he returned to Khartoum. I told him that I could read his mind. He asked me about the results that I came up with after reading his mind. I told him then that he will prepare for a military offensive. However, I also told him that if I were in his place, I would go back to Khartoum to begin implementing the Koka Dam agreement. Furthermore, I told him: I do not care how your people or the National Islamic Front react to this. I continued: I know they will shout against you, but these voices will die down once a cease-fire declaration is announced because people want peace. I went on to say: I believe you will lose a great deal if you take into account the opinions of the Islamic National Front and those of your supporters. I also told him that planning for war will be a catastrophe. And this is exactly what Al-Mahdi did. His offensives ended in abject failure in May. Al-Mahdi launched a large-scale operation in which he was defeated on all fronts. Thus, he failed to seize Muma and Fashala. The offensive resulted in our capturing Biyur [place-name as published], a large city in the Upper Nile region. We also seized Jokau in the Upper Nile region and Amadi and Tuse in the west on the borders with Zaire.

[Ahmad] Were these cities evacuated before they were seized? There were no forces in these cities when you seized them, were there?

[Garang] On the contrary, we captured 18 weapons of various caliber.

[Ahmad] Did you take any prisoners?

[Garang] We took Jokau area commander Lieutenant Colonel Salih Sa'id as a prisoner of war.

[Ahmad] How many prisoners of war do you have?

[Garang] Less than 200 and we told the International Committee of the Red Cross that it can visit the prisoners. The prisoners are kept in the city where I was born on the eastern bank of the Nile and near the borders with Uganda.

[Ahmad] How is your relationship with Al-Sadiq al- Mahdi right now?

[Garang] After the plane incident, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi branded us as terrorists. However, I said that our door is always open for dialogue. But Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said he will neither hold dialogue with us nor allow any political side to hold one with us. And this is the situation right now.

[Ahmad] Does this mean that there are currently no contacts between you and Al-Mahdi?

[Garang] There is nothing between us and the government.

[Ahmad] What is your conception of what is currently taking place in Khartoum? Do you think they will resume the dialogue?

[Garang] In Koka Dam, we requested that the state of emergency be lifted, and now that the state of emergency has been enhanced, there is no room for dialogue.

[Ahmad] Do you believe that these circumstances will push the military to stage another coup?

[Garang] This is actually possible. However, we do not want to see this happen despite the fact that we do not like the current situation in Sudan.

[Ahmad] Then, why do not you try to facilitate Al- Mahdi's mission?

[Garang] Al-Mahdi is the one who is complicating matters. He does not respond favorably to any ideas except those which he himself initiates. He is leveling accusation at everybody: At Al-Numayri and other political currents.

[Ahmad] But he has not assailed you.

[Garang] No, but he says that our supporters and backers in Khartoum are supplying me with detailed information on government institutions and that my information about the cabinet is better than his.

[Ahmad] If the Army assumes power again, will it be in your interest or not?

[Garang] I will not know until it actually takes power.

[Ahmad] Can you not see that Al-Mahdi wants democracy in Sudan while you are encouraging the military?

[Garang] We are not encouraging a military takeover. We want a dialogue with all the Sudanese political forces, including the military.

[Ahmad] What is the relationship between Anya Naya-I and Anya Nya-II?

[Garang] There is no relationship between the two.

[Ahmad] Are there forces in Khartoum supporting you politically?

[Garang] What we worked for at the Koka Dam conference was democracy. This is what we are working for. We are endeavoring to reach agreement on the major points to hold elections. But before this, a national conference on the constitution will be held. Then we all can go vote in elections. Concerning elections, we will find supporters. We do not want a confrontation with Al-Mahdi; we want democracy. The results will be defined after the elections. With whom are we siding? We are in a guerrilla war, and the government is not dealing with us as a political group. In their view we are outlaws.

[Ahmad] What is the nature of your negotiations with Mr Joseph Lago?

[Garang] We discussed national issues. He expressed his desire for peace and the continuation of the dialogue and his willingness to mediate between us and Khartoum after our contacts had been lost. I welcomed his ideas and told him that his efforts to resume the dialogue are a national task.

[Ahmad] Was this 2 months ago?

[Garang] Approximately 1 and 1/2 months ago. We welcomed him. I do not know if he met with Al-Mahdi after that. I did not receive any report of a reaction.

[Ahmad] The foreign minister told us there were no new options for resuming dialogue now.

[Garang] That is what he told you.

[Ahmad] He wants to know your opinion.

[Garang] We are trying to reach basic points. Al- Mahdi broke off the dialogue and he has to reopen it.

[Ahmad] I believe relations between you and Ethiopia are complicating matters. This does not serve the peace process now.

[Garang] We do not meddle in relations between Sudan and Ethiopia. This issue is Khartoum's concern. We have no treaties with Uganda or Zaire, but we have good relations. The same applies to Ethiopia. We are interested in having good relations with our neighbors, but the Sudanese regime, which is different from the Sudanese people, has some problems with Addis Ababa. This is their problem as a regime and government. As for us, we as a people are interested in our ties with neighboring nations.

[Ahmad] Are you trying to mediate between Khartoum and Addis Ababa to ease some of Al-Mahdi's problems? Al- Mahdi says there is no way he can take up this mediation issue himself, and Cairo believes that progress must be made in Sudanese-Ethiopian relations.

[Garang] We have asked to establish relations with Egypt as a political group. Egypt, however, has refused and given us nothing but a number of scholarships. We did not ask Egypt for weapons, as Hasan al-Turabi did on his recent visit there. Egypt turned down his request.

[Ahmad] But Egypt believes that the problem of the civil war must be solved peacefully, and for that reason refuses to give arms to either side. Egypt does not want to be a party to the dispute. It wants Sudan to be strong and cohesive.

[Garang] We also want that. But there are wide divisions in Khartoum. There are some who want to expel the Christians from Sudan — the Muslim Brotherhood for example, and Al-Turabi in particular.

[Ahmad] What is your opinion of Al- Mahdi as an individual?

[Garang] I met him for the first time last year. We have no personal relations, so I cannot make up my mind about him as an individual.

[Ahmad] Is the report true that you were wounded in combat and went to Romania for treatment?

[Garang] That is a big lie.

[Ahmad] But you have lost weight.

[Garang] That means that my health has improved. I did not go to Romania at all, was not wounded in action at all, and have not died.

[Ahmad] Then why did you disappear for 2 months?

[Garang] I was carrying out my work, and that was more important than denying these reports by saying that I was not hurt.

[Ahmad] Can you foresee an end to this war?

[Garang] We want to end it as soon as possible. The Sudanese people want peace as soon as possible. This depends on us and the political forces in Khartoum and on relations between the two sides.

[Ahmad] Will the end of the war be political or military?

[Garang] Very few wars end militarily. Most wars end through a political solution. War itself is political. Surely, there will be a political solution.

[Ahmad] How long will this take? Days, months, years?

[Garang] I cannot speculate.

[Ahmad] What in your opinion are the factors that will make Al-Mahdi enter into negotiations to reach a political solution?

[Garang] I believe Al-Mahdi is now ready for negotiations. He once thought he could end the crisis militarly in 1986. We are now approaching the fall of 1987, and his soldiers are still unable to make any headway in the south. Now that his military offensive has failed, I believe that the time has come for political negotiations. The dialogue had stopped because of the offensive.

[Ahmad] But it was Al-Mahdi who began the dialogue.

[Garang] We began the dialogue. The dialogue began with Al-Mahdi's assuming power. That was in March 1986 in Koka Dam. We called for a national constitutional conference before the uprising on 2 March 1985. We began the dialogue with the political forces before Numayri's overthrow. After Numayri, the dialogue was held at Koka Dam.

[Ahmad] There are indications in Khartoum that a national government will be formed including Al-Turabi. Do you think this will simplify matters? Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is trying to include all factions in his government to reach a peaceful solution after the military solution has failed. This is what the Sudanese expect. What is your opinion?

[Garang] It all depends on the reason for including Al-Turabi in the government and whether that will achieve a conscensus for

the sake of peace. But if the reason is to dominate us, then it would complicate matters. We still cannot see why Al-Mahdi is expanding his government.

[Ahmad] Has the INF, I mean Hasan al-Turabi, tried to hold a dialogue with you?

[Garang] Never. There was no personal meeting with me. However, a meeting took place between the INF and our London office. The office offered to meet with the INF members. That was all.

[Ahmad] What proposals did they make?

[Garang] Nothing. They did not discuss anything specific. However, the INF left the meeting with a good impression.

[Ahmad] What if Al-Mahdi and Al-Turabi reached an agreement on the Islamic Shari'a and issued a law applicable only to areas with a Muslim majority and not others; would that solve your problem concerning the Shari'a?

[Garang] This is not our problem. It is the problem of all Sudanese. We want a secular state. There is a Muslim majority in Egypt, yet there is no Shari'a. There is also a Muslim majority in Nigeria, yet there is no Shari'a.

[Ahmad] There are people in Egypt who demand application of the Shari'a. There will also come the day when people in Nigeria will demand the application of the Shari'a. If the Muslims, who are the majority, demand the aplication of the Shari'a, why should you object?

[Garang] The majority does not want the Shari'a. It was Numayri who imposed it. There were no elections or any vote on the Shari'a.

[Ahmad] A referendum is possible?

[Garang] There was no referendum on the Shari'a. Numayri imposed it. The referendum has not yet been held. Numayri has gone, and his laws have gone with him.

[Ahmad] I believe it is easy to hold a referendum?

[Garang] It is also easy for us to go to the moon. The Shari'a was imposed on Sudan. There was no referendum.

[Ahmad] I think my question is very clear: What if the Muslim majority agreed to apply the Shari'a to themselves only and not to other areas?

[Garang] A majority based on religion cannot be democratic, and a majority based on race is also not democratic.

If the African majority in Sudan agreed to expel the Arabs, would you agree? Therefore, any majority in Sudan that is based on religion or race will not succeed. Sudan is a multireligious and multiracial country. This is a mechanical majority.

[Ahmad] Why should you mind if I apply the Shari'a to myself as a Muslim?

[Garang] Why should the Arabs mind if I apply Africanism to the north? The Muslims are a mechanical majority in Sudan, and the Africans are also a mechanical majority in Sudan. This is a fact.

[Ahmad] Let us stop this undemocratic method of discussion and take an example. If a Christian in your country is opposed to certain stands, and the Muslim majority wants to apply Islamic law to themselves, how can this person be affected?

[Garang] General law is applied to all, and local law is applied to a certain area. This was prevalent before 1983, before Numayri imposed the Shari'a. In my village, there are special traditions that constitute the local law. We demand the return to the pre-1983 conditions. We reject the declaration of an Islamic state. We coexisted with the Muslims peacefully before this time in the south, and there was no need for the imposition of Shari'a law. We applied our traditions and special laws. These conditions prevailed before 1983. In my village, marriage falls under our traditions.

[Ahmad] Do you think that Al-Mahdi can form a new government in which Dr Garang will participate, that he can ask Garang and the other parties in the government to agree on amending all the laws and preparing a new constitution and new law? If this takes place, will you accept it?

[Garang] This is what we demanded at Kokka Dam 2 years ago. We welcome a national unity government, but this depends on the way that we join the government. This is a complicated issue because the Khartoum government is based on party considerations and parliamentary seats. Al-Mahdi controls 100 seats and the Brotherhood 50 seats. Therefore, there is no way we can put the SPLA in the government now. We must define a way.

[Ahmad] But it is easy to find solutions for this technical difficulty.

[Garang] I agree on the principle of establishing a national unity government, provided it is based on democracy. We have no parliametnary seats, and Parliament must be dissolved.

[Ahmad] Al-Mahdi has given you some seats in Parliament to be filled so you can join the government.

[Garang] That is very kind of him. If you meet him, give him my regards.

[Ahmad] I think Sudan is divided into many regions, and he had distributed the seats among them according to their size. Accordingly, you were left some seats to fill.

[Garang] Before 1983, I was living in the Yusuf quarter in Khartoum. If I went on living in that quarter, I would have won a seat in Parliament. But I left for the south.

[Ahmad] This technical issue you mention, do you mean to say that you are presenting conditions for joining the new government?

[Garang] We agree on the principle of national unity. Then we can search for the needed technical means. As a democratic group, we cannot participate in a government based on elections and a few seats in Parliament, with each party waiting for the election results to participate in the government. In this way we will be at the tail end of the government representatives in Parliament. The method has to change.

[Ahmad] In your view, what is the suitable means of solving this technical difficulty?

[Garang] All the parties should discuss the proper means of solving these technical difficulties. We cannot decide this alone.

[Ahmad] What is the truth about the letter you have sent to President Mubarak?

[Garang] I did not send any letter. This is only a rumor.

[Ahmad] What terms do you want Al-Mahdi to meet?

[Garang] I did not put forth any terms. These terms were put forth by those who signed the Koka Dam agreement.

[Ahmad] We have given our opinion on what might happen in Khartoum in the future. What is your opinion?

[Garang] I cannot predict anything, but I can tell you what happened. The emergency has been declared. There is a war in the south as well as in the north because we are fighting the Sudanese Army in Kurdufan and the Blue Nile regions.

[Ahmad] Then you know that there are U.S. forces in Kurdufan. Are they helping you, or Al-Mahdi?

[Garang] We have information that they were there before Al-Mahdi took over. In any case, they are not assiting us. We are neither enemies nor friends. You have asked me about my predictions. I do not deal with speculations but with facts.

Reportage on Gulf War Operations Continues

Communique No 2,786

JN201706 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Communique No 2,786 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 20 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Through their combat activities, our victorious Armed Forces affirm our great homeland's growing force and escalating ability to defeat the aggression and the aggressors. The following is a roundup for these activities for last night and today:

1. Our Air Force continued their daring raids. They inflicted further losses on the aggressors in personnel, equipment, and weapons. Our aircraft carried out 48 combat missions after which they returned safely to base, God be praised.

2. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector opened fire on opposite enemy positions. They managed to set ablaze three large vehicles, to destroy five infantry positions and two heavy machineguns, and to kill all their occupants.

3. Seven scoundrels were killed and two vehicles destroyed in the V Army Corps northern sector.

4. Two ammunition dumps were blown up and one machinegun was destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. One RPG-7 launcher, one medium machinegun, and two rifles were also found in the same sector, left behind by the enemy.

5. The disgraceful acts of the deteriorating regime of atheists ruling in Iran have become known to everyone. This regime is doomed to isolation. It could not find a way to express its failure, inability, and distress other than by shelling purely residential areas with all meanness and cowardice. The criminal regime today shelled valiant Al-Basrah with long-range artillery. The enemy shelling martyred 2 citizens and wounded 24 others, including 2 children and 3 women. The criminal enemy also shelled Qal'at Dizah with long-range artillery. This shelling wounded one citizen and damaged a number of houses.

We pledge to make the regime of charlatans pay over and over for every drop of pure Iraqi blood. We have always fulfilled our promises. We wish heaven for our two martyrs and a speedy recovery for our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 August 1987

Air Force Raids Industrial Sites

JN211104 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1028 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Communique No 2,787 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 21 August 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O God, we thank you for your grace and for granting us great victories. With the aim of inflicting further destruction on the vital economic installations that the charlatans' regime is using to perpetuate its aggression against our country and to continue its conspiracy against our Arab nation and its sanctities, and in an effort to implement our firm, legitimate right and to fulfill our people's will, several of our planes carried out the following tasks at noon today.

1. At 1145 [0745 GMT], several of our planes launched a devastating raid against the aluminum plant in Arak.

2. At 1149, several of our planes once again struck at the sugar plant in Dezful.

3. At 1151, our planes once again struck at the sugar plant in Shushtar to prevent the enemy from repairing these two [sugar] plants and to inflict further destruction on them.

After having carried out these tasks with the courage and accuracy for which our fierce hawks are known, all of our planes returned safely to their bases in the homeland, praise be to God.

Let the Khomeyniite scoundrels know that we shall respond with such blows and with even stronger blows deep inside their territories and on the battlefields. We will continue to reply to their stand which is hostile to peace, which calls for continued aggression, and which rejects the international community's will to resolve the conflict in a peaceful and just way. We did not wrong them; they wronged themselves.

Pride and glory to the men of our heroic Air Force — commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks. Praise be to God, the supporter of believers.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 August 1987

UN Security Council Informed of Civilian Shelling

JN201738 Baghdad INA in English 1615 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] United Nations, Aug. 20, INA — Iraq informed the U.N. Security Council today that the Iranian regime has continued to commit crimes of aggression against civilian areas in Iraq. In a letter addressed to U.N. Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar, Iraqi ambassador to the U.N. 'Ismal Kittani gave details of four long-range artillery attacks on residential areas during the period Aug. 11-18 that resulted in injuries to civilians and damage to civilian property. The targets included the cities of Basra and Al-'Uzayr, south Iraq and the towns of Qal'at Dizah, Biyarah and Qazaniyah, north Iraq.

Iran's Hesitation Over UN Resolution Unacceptable

JN201238 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
18 Aug 87 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Task of Implementing the Resolution Is a Test of the Credibility of Some"]

[Text] One can unequivocally say that the task of implementing Resolution 598 is no longer a real touchstone of the credibility of

the United Nations alone. It is a touchstone and a practical test of the credibility of the big powers, the permanent members of the Security Council, and their seriousness in implementing the resolution in whose formulation and adoption they played a major role.

All the facts and events connected with the Iraq-Iran war are now fully clear to the international community. The Iranian regime's aggression, expansionist ambitions, and terrorist and criminal nature have, to a great extent, been exposed to the international community and world public opinion. Iraq's firm and principled stand on ending the war is also well known. Consequently, there is no longer any justification for any international party to prevaricate and hesitate over adopting a clear and open stand on the behavior of the arrogant Iranian regime that persists in continuing the war and fails to work seriously and sincerely to end the conflict and adopt the necessary measures and sanctions to implement Resolution No 598.

In politics, as in life, it is not what is said or proposed that is important but what is done, the actual stand on an issue. It is true that all the big powers appear to be anxious to end the war and achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the conflict. However, it appears that there are those who are stalling in the implementation of the resolution and who are adopting vague political stands that lack clarity and frankness. When they speak about ending the war, they talk in generalities that are inadequate and cannot bring the war to an end.

We believe that to continue the Iraq-Iran war no longer serves the interests of any member of the international community. The continuation of the war is a real threat, not only to the security and peace of this strategic part of the world, but also to international peace and security, particularly in the present critical circumstances.

The specific factors that govern the formulation of a state's foreign policy are based primarily on its interests and strategic considerations, and consequently ending the Iraq-Iran war — even when the calculations and interests of the big powers themselves are taken into consideration — serves the interests of those states and enhances their credibility in the eyes of the international community. Short-term policies and calculations and emphasis on only one aspect of the conflict reduce the opportunities for achieving a just and comprehensive peace, ending the war, and divesting that state of its credibility. Experience shows that once it loses its credibility it is difficult for a big power to regain it.

The unforeseen dangers and developments arising from the war are bound to constitute a radical turning point in the coming stage, not only in the course of Iraqi international relations, but also in the course of Arab international relations in general. It is decidedly true to say that Iraq and the Arab nation will appreciate the noble, consistent, and honest stands of others, and will base their policy toward each state on that state's stand on ending the war.

Those who believe they can adopt stands that will satisfy both of the war's belligerents are mistaken. The Iranian regime cannot represent the Iranian peoples and their interests. It is a regime that has no future and lacks consistency and political stability.

It is a grave mistake for some sides to try to exploit the war in order to achieve small political or material gains on the basis of a one-sided view that does not serve the cause of international peace and security. In our view, serious, honest, and clear work in ending the war serves the interests of the big powers and their strategic and ideological considerations and confirms the credibility of their international policy.

After 7 years of a ferocious and costly war and after the facts that indict the Iranian regime, its aggression, expansionism, and racism have been exposed, it is no longer acceptable for some international parties that are anxious to maintain their friendship with Iraq and other Arab states to hesitate or prevaricate over the issue of ending the war and over the implementation of Resolution No 598. Vacilating and ambiguous stands can only lead to these international parties losing their credibility, weakening their relations, and harm their reputation in the Arab region and in the Third World in general.

Editorial on Iranian Rejection of UN Resolution

JN210942 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 19 Aug 87 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "What Is Wanted Is a Responsible Stand"]

[Text] The Iranian regime has been rejecting UN Security Council Resolution No 598 in word, deed, and spirit since it was adopted on 20 July.

The Iranian regime has continued its aggression against Iraq by launching military operations and shelling purely residential areas. Iran's aggression was not directed against Iraq alone. The Iranian regime attacked several ships belonging to Gulf and non-Gulf states, planted mines in international waterways, and made various threats against area countries. It also hatched a plot against Saudi Arabia, threatening the lives of thousands of pilgrims and harming and causing the deaths of hundreds.

Iranian officials have made numerous statements clearly affirming the regime's insistence on continuing the war and urging Iranians to go to the battlefronts. Such statements were made by Khamene'i, president of the Iranian regime, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and by Khomeyni himself.

Iran's official response to the Security Council resolution was in line with this spirit of aggression and with the Iranian regime's attitude toward all previous resolutions adopted by the Security Council. Several parts of the Iranian reply clearly indicate that Iran rejects the resolution and is trying to circumvent it and trick the international community. The Iranian response was selective in its approach to the resolution's articles in order to avoid its mandatory injunction and hamper the implementation of all of its clauses, thus divesting it of its peaceful provisions. In view of the fact that the resolution is mandatory, any other conclusion drawn from the Iranian response that conflicts with the resolution's binding nature or undermines it in word or spirit has no legal basis. Such a conclusion is bound to be ill-intentioned and

viewed as part of the maneuvering that in reality seeks to save the Iranian regime and rescue it from the tight corner in which the international community — foremost among whom are the five permanent member states of the Security Council — have placed it. That would be an encouragement to the Iranian regime to flout the will of the international community and persist in a war that has caused much bloodshed and resulted in great agony in the last 7 years.

Naturally, Iraq totally rejects such maneuvering and any ideas that seek to divide the war and to construe the Iranian reply to mean something different than what it clearly means; namely, rejection of Resolution No 598 in word and spirit and attempts to evade its implementation. There is no doubt that those who are trying to find excuses and a way out for the Iranian regime are not serving the cause of peace, but encouraging the Iranian regime to disregard international laws and resolutions and are, wittingly or unwittingly, providing it with a cover to persist in its war, aggression, terrorism, and extortion.

The first to belie such an interpretation of the Iranian reply is the Iranian regime itself; its own words and actions refute such an interpretation. This is not at all unknown to the circles that are spreading such an interpretation and looking for excuses and covers for the aggressor Iranian regime's stand.

Therefore, these circles must sense their international responsibility for a war that has been underway for 7 years and that has resulted in great disasters. Its repercussions were not confined to the two warring countries, but affected the entire region and spread to other parts of the world. For these very same reasons the UN Security Council, primarily its five permanent members, are asked to take a historic, responsible stand and unhesitatingly apply Article 7 of the UN Charter against the Iranian regime for its rejection of the mandatory Resolution No 598; its persistence in continuing the war and aggression and carrying out acts of anarchy, sabotage, and terrorism; its disregard for the Security Council; and its defiance of the will of the international community.

Shamir Returns From Romania; Differences Remain

TA201831 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir ended his visit to Romania and returned to Israel a short time ago. At the end of his talks, Yitzhaq Shamir said that he had reached an agreement with President Ceausescu on several issues that will advance the peace process in the Middle East. The prime minister refused to say what the points of agreement were.

Responding to a question posed by our correspondent Yig'al Goren, the prime minister confirmed that there are many differences between himself and President Ceausescu in everything that concerns the involvement of the PLO in the political process. [passage omitted]

Shamir, Sources Comment

TA210706 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Aug 87 pp 1, 18

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Benny Morris]

[Text] Bucharest — Prime Minister Shamir said yesterday that Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu has not ruled out the idea of a regional mini-conference for Middle East peace, as espoused by Shamir in recent months as a counterweight to Foreign Minister Peres's promotion of a full-fledged international peace conference.

But Romanian sources expressed a "certain disappointment" yesterday over the lack of give on Shamir's part during Ceausescu's efforts to persuade him to agree to some form of international conference with PLO participation. Shamir returned to Israel last night at the end of the three-day visit.

At a press conference here after his third and final meeting with Ceausescu and before his departure for Jerusalem, Shamir said that he and the Romanian leader had agreed that "there could not be any solution (to the Middle East conflict) imposed from outside (by the powers and that any agreement must be) the result of negotiations among the parties. (We agreed) that peace could be attained only through direct talks among the interested parties."

Israel and Romania, said Shamir, had agreed that the two countries would continue in their efforts to narrow the gap between their positions. Foreign Ministry Director-General Yosi Ben-Aharon said later that it was possible that the Shamir-Ceausescu dialogue would be continued with the help of special emissaries.

Israeli sources said that throughout their meetings, Ceausescu stuck rigidly to the idea of a full-fledged international conference under UN auspices, presided over by the five permanent members of the Security Council and attended by the PLO, which Ceausescu regards as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

But Shamir said that Ceausescu had said that he saw "many points of proximity between" the international conference and regional conference concepts.

Sources in the Shamir entourage said that Israel now expects Ceausescu to sound out Arab leaders on their attitude to a regional conference as proposed by the Israeli prime minister.

Shamir said that Romania plays "a very important and constructive role" in Middle East peace-making, and cited Ceausescu's "useful" role in 1977 that helped get Egypt and Israel together for the 1977-79 peace breakthrough. The prime minister added that he is now more optimistic than in the past about the possibility of peace in the region. This assessment coincided with Ceausescu's own, which was, according to Shamir, that the Arab world — including the PLO — was becoming "more and more moderate." But Israel, added Shamir, "doesn't think that everything (the Arabs) say expresses their real throughts."

On the bilateral plane, both sides apparently came away from the visit feeling satisfied. Romanian Prime Minister Constantine Dascalescu and the president's son, Anton Ceausescu, the minister of youth and sport [name and title as published], are expected to visit Israel in the coming months.

Contrary to earlier reports, the Romanians apparently did not broach with Shamir the problem of obtaining most-favoured nation trade treatment by the U.S. "They know," said a senior source close to Shamir, "that we did our best last year in Washington to influence Congress to (pass such a resolution). We failed, we don't always succeed."

An Israeli official who took part in the talks described Ceausescu as "much more soft-spoken, much less dogmatic than four years ago. He is a very good listener. But I cannot say that the Shamir-Ceausescu talks have brought Middle East peace even one centimetre closer."

USSR Consular Delegation Said Not To Extend Stay

TA201642 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Aug 87 pp 1, 4

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The Soviet consular delegation will not extend its stay in Israel after the termination of the 3-month visas given to its members.

In the last few weeks the flow of persons appealing to the offices of the delegation in Tel Aviv has thinned out greatly. It has been reported that not more than five or six persons approach the offices daily on matters of visas and emigration.

Foreign Ministry officials initially had assumed that following the 3-month period the Soviets would ask to renew their visas and that at the same time Israel would ask for visas for its own delegation to Moscow. It has now been reported that Foreign Minister Peres will raise the issue of reciprocity during his meeting with his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze in New York next month.

The members of the Soviet delegation are currently completing their assessment of Soviet property in Israel. In discussions with Justice Ministry representatives, a dispute arose concerning the rights of the Soviet Government over a building belonging to the Agriculture Ministry in Jerusalem. This building was given as a present to Prince Sergey, and a claim was voiced that the rights to the building should be kept for his inheritors and not the Soviet Government which replaced Tsarist Russia.

The Jerusalem Municipality has expressed willingness to compensate the Russians for the use it has made of a lot on King George Street for parking purposes.

Return of U.S. Envoy to Syria Not Justified

TA201319 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] An official in Jerusalem says that Israel does not see a substantial change in Syria's policy, and therefore there is no justification for the decision to return the U.S. ambassador to Damascus. The official, who gave a briefing to foreign correspondents, was reacting to a report from Washington that the U.S. ambassador to Syria is scheduled to return to Damascus early next month following a 1-year absence.

Polish Officials To Discuss Increased Trade

TA200924 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0900 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] The Industry and Trade Ministry's director general will leave shortly for Poland to examine possibilities for increased bilateral trade. This was decided by Director General Yoram Blizovsky and the head of the Polish interests office in Israel. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that at the same time the two countries will set up a working group which will include Industry and Trade Ministry representatives and official Polish representatives. The working group will consolidate measures to increase economic cooperation between the two countries. Last year Israeli exports to Poland totaled $3 million, mainly chemicals and industrial equipment. Imports from Poland totaled $1 million and included wood products.

Cultural Agreement With Spain Ratified

TA201209 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] Documents ratifying the Israeli-Spanish cultural agreement were exchanged in Jerusalem today. This is the first agreement signed between the two countries. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Spanish Ambassador Pedro Aguirre-Bengoa both talked about the symbolic significance of the resumption of cultural ties between the Jewish and Spanish peoples.

Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that the Spanish minister of state for foreign affairs is expected here in 2 weeks. He heads the committee commemorating the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America, the end to Muslim rule of Spain, and the expulsion of the Jews from that country. During his visit he will coordinate the Jewish and historical aspects of events marking those anniversaries. Later the Spanish tourism minister will also visit Israel and sign a tourism agreement. Aviation, scientific, and technological cooperation agreements are expected to be signed as well.

Contacts With Jordan Held Through Written Messages

TA200848 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
20 Aug 87 p 3

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] In recent months, Israel and Jordan have held contacts on various matters through correspondence for the first time. Our correspondent has learned that several messages from Jordanian ministers and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i have reached Israel.

Contacts in the past were maintained through verbal messages conveyed by envoys from the West Bank. For the last several months,however, most contacts have been in the form of written messages conveyed through U.S. mediation. Thus, for instance, on the matter of the East Jerusalem Electric Company, Israel received a Jordanian memorandum in which Jordan accepted the arrangement Israel had imposed on the company except for the clause on extending its concession. On this point, Jordan believes that the limited concession should have been extended by 25 years and not only until the end of the century.

Other contacts concerned higher education in the West Bank. Jordan wants to set up a network of new colleges which will reduce the power of the pro-PLO ones. These contacts were held through verbal messages. Other contacts concerned the process of giving the Arabs a greater role to play in the Civilian Administration and land affairs. With regard to the issue of the Herodion water drilling, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj transmitted a message from Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to the Jordanian Government.

Within the framework of these contacts, Jordan informed Israel that it does not agree to the participation of Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah in the Palestinian delegation for the political process. Jordan announced that it finds personages such as Rashad al-Shawwa more acceptable. In its opinion, the PLO will ultimately replace the representatives on the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation with people that are more acceptable to Jordan.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj is currently in Bucharest, following 'Arafat's visit there, and talks with him may be focusing on the question of Palestinian representation.

Our correspondent has learned that a split has occurred among Jordan's supporters in the West Bank: A Hebronite group withdrew from joint activity with the group which stands behind the *Al-Nahar* paper. The background for the split is apparently intervention by very influential circles in Jordan against the current Jordanian policy in the territories. The leaders of the pro-Jordanian group are currently in Amman to discuss the crisis.

Rabin Feels Mideast Period of Calm Nearing End

TA210513 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Aug 87 p 1

[Report by defense affairs correspondent Joshua Brilliant.

[Text] Tel Aviv — Defence Minister Rabin said yesterday he believed the Middle East was nearing the end of a six to 10 year period of "relative political calm."

Addressing graduates of the IDF Staff and Command College, the minister noted that in the past few years the threat of imminent war with one or more Arab armies had been remote.

uf blank,l Israel knows, however, that its ability to predict political and military developments is limited, Rabin said. There had been errors in predicting the outbreak and results of war — so Israel must "learn the lesson and be attentive to changes which may occur."

The IDF must be prepared for any eventuality in the near future and make preparations for the more distant future, Rabin said.Unlike some other armies, it cannot work on the assumption that there will definitely be no war in the next few years, he warned.

Molotov Cocktails in Gaza; Attacks Increasing

TA201131 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Aug 87 p 6

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was thrown yesterday morning at an Israeli military vehicle in the Khan Yunus region. The bottle exploded but there were no casualties.

Another Molotov cocktail was discovered in the area. Apparently the terrorists did not manage to throw it.

The security forces immediately closed 'Abd al-Na'tir Street and conducted searches, but no one was picked up. The IDF increased its motorized patrols in the region.

Senior military sources said yesterday that over the last month a worrisome rise has been noted in the number of attacks against Israelis, particularly military people. The sources added that "the terrorists who are active in the Gaza Strip, and who in the past acted only against civilians, are now also directing attacks against military people, which is a new phenomenon."

Despite the increase in attacks, many Israelis circulate in the Gaza Strip, although most of them are now armed. They have begun traveling about the Gaza Strip in pairs.

The investigation by the security forces of the incident in which a soldier and a civilian were wounded is continuing. There are no detainees as yet.

Fatah Force 17 Leader Reportedly Arrested in South

NC210507 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] AFP has cited Palestinian sources as saying that Lieutenant Colonel Rassam al-Ghul, the official in charge of Fatah's Force 17, has been arrested near the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in the company of two other persons. The two people with him have been released.

By late last night Palestinian organizations still had not verified rumors that Al-Ghul had been killed.

Great tension now prevails in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp between those who sympathize with the former official [as heard] in charge of Force 17 and those loyal to other high cadres in Fatah. Control over the camp is shared by the two factions.

Body Discovered

NC210521 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0450 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Excerpt] According to reports from Sidon, the body of Lieutenant Colonel Rassam al-Ghul, the official in charge of Fatah's Force 17 in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, has been discovered. Al-Ghul was kidnapped outside the camp on Wednesday in the company of two other persons, who were later released. Rassam al-Ghul, the brother of Jihad al-Ghul, commander in chief of the Fatah's Force 17, recently arrived in 'Ayn al-Hulwah to assume command of Force 17 troops there and to replace Lieutenant Colonel Husayn al-Haydi, who had been killed in inter-Palestinian fighting within the camp. [passage omitted]

PSP-SSNP Fighting in Bshamun Claims Casualties

NC210836 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] Tension and a show of force continue to prevail in the Bshamun area in the wake of fierce fighting between PSP personnel and forces of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] last night and early today. RFL has learned that the clashes left many members of the two warring factions dead or wounded.

Palestinian Moves in South, Al-Kharrub Reported

NC201700 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] According to security sources in Sidon, the pro-'Arafat Palestinian command has undertaken a series of measures to prevent Syrian forces from encircling Sidon and the nearby Palestinian camps. The sources say that pro-'Arafat militiamen have deployed along the coastal road in the Al-Kharrub region. Kurds and Beduins from this region have been enlisted to man pro-'Arafat positions in the Al-Na'Imah and Harat al-Na'Imah areas. They have been supplied with weapons of various kinds, including rockets and machineguns.

According to Palestinian sources, units loyal to Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] and the PFLP-GC have arrived in Sidon with a Syrian escort to counterbalance the influence of 'Arafat in 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah camps. However, the same sources add, these units have been warned against compromising Palestinian unity in this region and told that Palestinian control of certain positions and hills in the area is vital for the protection of the Palestinian camps.

Resistance Hits Enemy Motor Pool; Casualties Noted

NC210741 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] The National Resistance Front has issued a statement saying that one of its groups fired two 107-mm rockets yesterday morning at an enemy and agent motor pool near Sribbin in the central sector. The statement affirms that the rockets scored direct hits, inflicting grave losses in enemy troops and vehicles. Helicopters were seen airlifting casualties to the occupied territories. Enemy troops immediately raked the area with heavy-caliber machinegun and mortar fire.

Phalangist Leader Sa'dah on Election Outlook

PM201455 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 14 Aug 87 pp 18, 19, 22

[Interview with Dr George Sa'adah, Phalangist Party leader, by William Dahir; date and place not given]

[Excerpts][Passage omitted] *Al-Hawadith*: Do you believe that the presidential elections will be held on time and in a constitutional way if the current situation continues?

Sa'adah: These events are not new to Lebanon. During such events, three elections have been held to elect a president of the Republic. Each time major questions were raised by the people: Would the presidential election be held? Everyone remembers how late President Ilias Sarkis was elected and how deputies managed to reach the Chamber of Deputies under gunfire and shelling in order to carry out their duties. This was also the case when late President Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil was elected, since deputies were unable to reach the Chamber but were able, despite all pressures, to meet in a safe place and elect the president of the Republic. I believe that rumors being circulated today are no different from those which coincided with the election of Presidents Ilias Sarkis and Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil. [passage omitted]

The elections will be held; they will be held according to the constitutional rules in force. However, what some, probably an overwhelming majority of Lebanese fear is that the elections will be held under certain political pressures.

Lebanon, as is known, is suffering from occupations and foreign influences. What is required is that deputies be given the freedom to elect the president who will eventually lead the country for a new 6-year term, during which we hope that Lebanon will be able to quickly restore its strength, activity, and vanguard role.

Al-Hawadith: Do you mean by foreign influences Syrian influences? And since when were presidential elections held in Lebanon without foreign influences, from whatever source?

Sa'adah: We must be realistic. Events to date demonstrate Syrian interference in every sector. The political organizations and fronts which are being formed are all aiming in the same direction. If Syria is interfering in such minor matters, there is obviously reason to fear that it could interfere in crucial affairs; namely, the presidential elections. Syria is not alone in the Lebanese arena. There are regional and foreign forces which are interfering as well. The Lebanese leaders are required to work with this awareness, because the presidency of the Republic imposes on any president the duty to act as a Lebanese, even if he is elected under particular circumstances. This can create a problem or problems between the president and those who pressed for his election. There is much evidence of this. Let us be frank: President Ilyas Sarkis was elected under the effective influence of the Syrians in Lebanon. However, after he was elected he acted consciously as a Lebanese.

The late President Bashir al-Jumayyil was elected under the influence of the Israelis. Everyone thought that he would immediately conclude agreements with Israel. But everyone knows that he differed with the Israelis from the moment the election ended and even before he had assumed presidential responsibilities. Therefore, I call on foreign forces not to exert any pressure or efforts with a view to electing one president or another in the belief that their policy will dominate once he reaches Ba'bda Palace. Lebanon's history contains evidence and lessons that any Lebanese president, past or future, works only for the higher Lebanese interests. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: Who will be the united ranks' candidate? What about an extension? Will the candidate be George Sa'adah, Joseph al-Hashim, Dany Sham'un, Samir Ja'ja', Edward Hunayn, or Michel 'Awn?

Sa'adah: Competition in the provision of services is desirable. St Paul wrote that it is good to strive to be a bishop. I find no basis for a contest for the presidency, since the situation, as we know, encourages people to avoid shouldering responsibilities. Here I do not mean avoiding responsibilities in the absolute sense of the word, but specifically presidential responsibilities, since the tasks are numerous. As for the names which you have mentioned, only Dany Sham'un has declared himself a candidate. As for others, no one has yet decided to run for president. George Sa'adah is not a candidate. As for the Phalangist Joseph al-Hashim, the matter is not up to George Sa'adah or Joseph al-Hashim but to the political office which makes the appropriate decision at the correct time.

Al-Hawadith: But some sources report that the Phalangist Party is currently considering the possibility of nominating one of two: either Dr Sa'adah or Samir Ja'ja', whereas some propose Joseph al-Hashim. What is your opinion of this? Or, if none of these, are you ready to continue backing Dany Sham'un, who is a close ally of yours?

Sa'adah: There is a strong and old alliance between the Phalangist Party and the Liberal Party. In one my speeches I said: All that Camille Sham'un and Pierre al-Jumayyil established will remain and, if possible, we will reinforce it. The presidential election battle will not cause any differences between us and the allies; it will in fact be the opposite. We are seeking to increase the number of our allies in order to encourage them to serve Lebanese interests.

AL-Hawadith: But you have ignored in your answer the names which the party is discussing in its closed meetings to decide on its presidential candidate.

Sa'adah: Up to this moment the party has not announced a presidential candidate at either open or closed meetings. All that our party is doing in its closed and open meetings, as well as in its struggle, is safeguarding the Republic before we decide on a president.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you support an extension? You have not told us your opinion of an extension.

Sa'adah: I do not believe that an extension is in the cards. The extension refrain has become a familiar one. At the end of every era a campaign of distortion is launched against every president, who is usually accused of working toward extending his term despite the fact that any president usually spends the last year of his term counting the days until he can rid himself of the nightmare that follows him. I do not believe that incumbent President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil is different from previous presidents. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Are we to understand from what you say that you expect regional and international changes and a gamble on a repetition of the 1982 experience; that is, a new Israeli invasion, which all information indicates is unlikely?

Sa'adah: No, no, no. That is not what is meant. Balance can be overturned by occupation, alliances, or agreements. All matters are on the table at present. The Middle East problem is also on the table. There is talk of an international conference in order to discuss problems. In the past there was agreement between Syria and the Palestinians. Today there is disagreement between the Syrians and the Palestinians; and a deep-rooted difference between the Syrians and the Iraqis. This difference could be transformed into an agreement as a result of the contacts being made. Jordan is playing a role in bringing viewpoints closer together. Saudi Arabia, which has abandoned its role in Lebanon, at least in the declared form, might return to play an effective role when circumstances are more favorable. In the past Egypt had decisive words within some Lebanese circles, but because of estrangement between the Arab states and Egypt and Egypt's withdrawal from the Arab League, Egypt's role may have been reduced, at least overtly. But facts and circumstances could change because of the contacts being made. Yasir 'Arafat met with President Husni Mubarak. Besides, there are contacts at regional and local levels. In the past Iran had no influence in Lebanon; today it has influence through certain organizations that are loyal to it. These facts could change after a period of time. This is on the local and regional levels. As for the international level, in the past the Soviet Union limited its dealings to some Lebanese groups. But today we see the Soviet Union

dealing with everyone. The Soviet ambassador in Beirut contacts and meets with all people.

As for the United States, some believe that it has abandoned its role in Lebanon after the role it played and the price it paid. However, a power as influential as the United States cannot abandon its role during the presidential election battle. The United States is now playing an effective role and making contacts with Syria as well as some regional and local forces. We should also take into account that the EEC has a role to play in Lebanon as well. Foremost among those maneuvering to salvage Lebanon is the Vatican. Would the Vatican do nothing if it saw the presidential elections in Lebanon leading Lebanon to destruction and partition, God forbid? [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: There are those who believe that the situation is boiling in the eastern area owing to deep differences regarding some methods and principles and that there is actually a fear that an explosion could occur among the forces in the area. Do you support this opinion?

Sa'adah: I would assure those people that such an explosion will not take place. Problems may take place within one family, one party, or one home. As for what is being reported by some, whether as hope or concern, we would assure both those who are concerned that their concern is not justified, and those who hope that they will be disappointed.

Al-Hawadith: What is the frank truth about the abortive coup said to have been led by the Lebanese Forces through Army brigades against the president of the Republic?

Sa'adah: These are delusions, lies, reports, and dreams on the part of some people. This is fabrication which is completely groundless. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: In the past you maintained a good relationship with Damascus. It has been noticed that you have moved away from Syria, since we no longer see any contacts being made with the Syrians. Will you continue to make no contacts with the Syrians, and what is the reason?

Sa'adah: This is true. The relationship between the Phalangists and the Syrians is longstanding, especially my personal relationship with the overwhelming majority of the Syrian leaders. There were friendly relations. These relations were severed when the "tripartite agreement" was announced. Contacts and relations have ceased since then. Friendship is one thing and the Lebanese interest is another. Probably some friendly relations still remain but do not affect crucial matters.

Al-Hawadith: Have any contacts been made directly or through mediation between you and the Syrians since the tripartite agreement?

Sa'adah: No. Since the announcement of the tripartite agreement no contacts have been made at all.

Shultz Message Expresses Thanks to Foreign Minister

JN201857 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has sent a written message to Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. In his message, Shultz expresses his and the United States' profound thanks and gratitude to President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian Government for their efforts in freeing American journalist Charles Glass from his abductors in Lebanon. Shultz also expresses hope for continuing Syrian support for the release of the remaining hostages of various nationalities and the restoration of peace and security to Lebanon.

Concluding his message, the U.S. secretary of state affirms the importance of Syria's distinguished role in achieving a Lebanese national accord.

U.S. Support For 'Zionist' Policy Criticized

JN201438 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Station Commentary]

[Text] Washington, and the Western and Zionist quarters linked to it, launched a misleading campaign against Syria on the pretext that Syria perpetrates acts of terrorism. When it did so, Washington deluded itself into believing that this would influence Syria's decisionmaking, cut it down to size, and isolate it both in the Arab world and internationally. However, Syria has strongly confronted this campaign of deception. Syria has exposed the objectives and motives of this campaign and asserted that it will not budge by a hair's breadth from its constant stands. Syria rejects the schemes that seek to impose hegemony on the Arabs. Syrian policy seeks to confront the Camp David course with the intention of isolating and thwarting it.

Syria has succeeded in thwarting the scheme of deception and aggression directed against it. Syria also took the initiative by calling for an international conference to define terrorism. The conference would distinguish between terrorism and the just struggles being waged by peoples for the sake of liberating their lands from occupiers and invaders. Hence, Syria opposes terrorism because individual terrorism, as well as state terrorism, contravenes its principles and its militant policy. Past events have confirmed that the Zionist enemy has introduced terrorism into the region. This has been the case since it embarked on implementing its expansionist plan. The Zionist plan seeks to establish the Israel defined in the Torah, with borders extending from the Nile to the Euphrates.

Zionist gangs have been carrying out terrorist operations since the beginning of this century. The Zionist entity has carried out these operations against civilian planes and ships in international waters and airspace. The Zionist enemy perpetrates organized terrorism and acts of extermination in the occupied territories. Past events have proven that these acts are part of the racist nature of this enemy. They are also an extension of the terrorism carried out by the imperialist and colonialist forces against popular and national liberation movements. These movements are struggling to regain their freedom, to liberate their lands, and to preserve their national independence.

Hence, terrorism is a phenomenon that reflects imperialist and racist practices. And this phenonmenon is especially manifested by the terrorist operations that have been carried out and are still being carried out by Washington against Nicaragua, Grenada, Cuba, Libya, and in the Arab Gulf. Washington protects the terrorism perpetrated by the Zionist against the Arabs, especially in the occupied Arab territories and in international waters and airspace. When it does so, Washington makes it clear to everyone that it is perpetrating state terrorism within the framework of its policy. Washington's policy is based on intimidating and terrorizing peoples with the aim of imposing its hegemony in the international arena.

Most of the world's states support Syria's initiative calling for the convening of an international conference to define the meaning of terrorism. There is no doubt that this support lends this initiative the necessary backing for adoption by the United Nations. This would expose and bare the U.S.-Zionist terrorism from which the Arabs and all peoples that are resisting the policies of containment and U.S. hegemony have been suffering. The U.S. objection to Syria's initiative in this regard is attributed to Washington's belief that the repression and collective extermination being perpetrated by the Zionist enemy in the occupied territories are legitimate acts carried out in self-defense. It can also be atdributed to the U.S. belief that the operations carried out by the Palestinian and Lebanese national resistance are forms of terrorism.

TISHRIN Comments on U.S. Gulf Mobilization

PM201435 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 11 Aug 87 p 8

[Nizar Dawudi article: "Whither U.S. Mobilization?"]

[Text] The U.S. Administration is determined to mobilize more of its military units in the Gulf region and, at the same time, to make considerable efforts to drag its allies into joining it in creating a formidable naval presence there, thus confirming Washington's aggressive intentions toward the region and its peoples.

Despite internal opposition in Washington to the U.S. Administration's plans, especially Congressional opposition to President Reagan's decision to send forces overseas without its consent, the Reagan administration has continued to send more aircraft carriers and destroyers on flimsy and invalid pretexts and excuses. On the pretext of safeguarding the oil supply routes to the Western states and the United States and escorting oil tankers to protect them from "possible attacks," the United States has mobilized scores of warships and tens of thousands of troops in the Gulf, which confirms beyond any doubt Washington's intentions in the region; namely, to impose its influence and hegemony in a region considered to be one of the most important in the world.

The U.S. Administration has not been content with mobilizing its forces in the region but has sought to drag some of its allies into joining it in order to fulfill its aims.

The U.S. naval mobilization activities in the region have coincided with U.S. joint military exercises with some allied states under the name of "Bright Star," which began with Somalia and will include the Egyptian regime by the middle of this month.

A quick glance at the political map within which the United States is making its military moves shows what it is seeking to achieve.

To be more precise, the U.S. Administration, by means of its dubious military moves, is trying to impose its influence and hegemony on the world's most important strategic points.

This is all part of the U.S. concept based on such pretexts as protecting the oil routes and lines of communication or some other names, such as carrying out joint exercises to raise the capability of the allied states' armies to the required level. In the face of the increased activity of the U.S. war machine, the Arabs must be aware of the hidden motives behind it. Duty requirec that they rise to a level of national and pan-Arab responsibility and do everything necessary to remove the false U.S. mask and confront the U.S. hegemonistic designs and know well — which of course they do — that the United States has not been for onesingle day and will never be anything but an enemy to their hopes, interests, and pan-Arab causes.

Anyone who supplies the Arabs' historical enemy "Israel" with the most modern weapons of destruction and death and enables it to continue to occupy Arab land and to continue its aggression against the Arab nation cannot possibly be a friend of the Arabs nor a supporter of their interests. So it is necessary for the nation to close ranks and unite its efforts and energies to regain its rights and preserve its decisionmaking, its sovereignty, and its national independence.

Prime Minister Visits Iranian Trade Fair Pavilion

LD210853 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] Damascus, Aug. 21, IRNA — Syria's Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, ministers of economy and foreign trade Muhammad al-Imadi and of industry 'Ali al-Tarabulsi visited Iran's pavilion in Damascus International Fair Thursday.

Iranian Ambassador to Damascus Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari welcomed the Syrian officials and briefed them on the goods displayed in the Iranian pavillion.

Talks were also held between Akhtari and the Syrian officials on the need for further expansion of Tehran-Damascus economic relations and trade exchanges.

Envoy in Islamabad Meets Leader of Pashtuns

LD201754 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] A source in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that yesterday the charge d'affaires of the Afghanistan Embassy in Islamabad, together with a number of the embassy's staff and staff of the DRA Consulate in Peshawar, visited Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the national leader of the Pashtuns.

During this visit, when Khan Abdul Wali Khan, leader of the National Awami Party and a number of members of the National Awami Party were present, the charge d'affaires of the DRA Embassy, on behalf of the DRA Government, expressed the readiness of his embassy to provide any type of assistance and cooperation.

Khan Abdul Wali Khan, having expressed thanks to the DRA charge d'affaires in Islamabad, expressed deep appreciation for the heartfelt (?approach) by the PDPA leadership and the DRA Government.

Presidium Issues Decrees on 68th Anniversary

LD201343 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 19 Aug 87

[Text] In order to mark the 68th anniversary of the country's restoration of independence and DRA Army Day, the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council issued the following decree on granting the title of DRA Hero; a decree on granting the honorary title of DRA Heroic Unit; and a decree concerning the promotion of those officers of the DRA Armed Forces who have been promoted to the ranks of brigadier general and major general in honor of these two auspicious anniversary days and of their fine work in accordance with the demand of the party and national government, displaying worthy services for the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation and restoration of nationwide peace in the country:

The Decree of the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council:

The Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council, in order to appreciate the valuable and worthy services of two personnel of the DRA Armed Forces who, with courage, bravery, and self-sacrifice, have accomplished their mission and historic duties for the defense of the country's territorial integrity, independence, national sovereignty, defense of the gains of the 1 April Revolution and implementation of the policy of national reconciliation, approves the following in accordance with Paragraph 5, Article 43 of the DRA Basic Principles:

Two personnel of the DRA Ministry of Defense to be honored with the title DRA Hero: Martyred Comrade Major Ahmad Sa'id, son of Nazar Muhammad, deputy political head of Regiment 34, 15th Infantry Division; and Comrade Kabuli, son of Abdul 'Aziz, man of Battalion 2, Sapper Regiment 134 of No 3 Army Corps.

[Signed] Haji Muhammad Chamkani, acting president of the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council

The Decree of the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council:

In order to appreciate the worthy and valuable services of those units and companies of the DRA Ministry of Defense who, as satisfactory and devout defenders of the homeland and revolution, have fought and are fighting resolutely for the defense of the country and the implementation of national reconciliation and gains of the 1 April Revolution, who have increasingly achieved enormous victories in the struggle against extremists, the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council approves the following in accordance with Paragraph 5, Article 43 of the DRA Basic Principles:

To the following units of the DRA Ministry of Defense the honorary title of the DRA Heroic Unit is to be granted to Brigade 4 of Armored Regiment 55 of Division 2 Infantry; and Regiment 377 of the Air Force.

[Signed] Haji Muhammad Chamkani, acting president of the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council

The Decree of the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council:

The Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council, in accordance with Article 43 of the DRA Basic Principles, approves the granting of general ranks to these officers of the DRA Armed Forces:

Comrade Brigadier General Muhammad Joma Achek, son of Muhammad Sharif, commander of No 2 Infantry Army Corps, to the rank of major general; Comrade Brigadier General Muhammad Asef, son of Delawar, commander of No 3 Infantry Army Corps, to the rank of major general; Comrade Lt Col Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, son of Alam Khan, the DRA minister of communications [as heard], to the rank of brigadier general; Comrade Col Muhammad Ashaq Tokhi, son of 'Abdul 'Ali, in charge of the Political Department of the Armed Forces of the PDPA Central Committee, to the rank of brigadier general; Comrade Col Gul Muhammad, son of Pacha Khan, commander of 37th Brigade of [words indistinct], to the rank of brigadier general; Comrade Col Muhammad 'Aziz, son of Muhammad Yunis, staff officer of the Air Force, to the rank of brigadier general; Comrade Col 'Abdul Haq, son of Sher Khan, commander of Radar Force, to the rank of brigadier general; Comrade Col Shah Aqa, son of Fayzorrahman, staff officer of the Central Army Corps, to the rank of brigadier general; Comrade Col 'Abdul Wahid, son of Abdurrashid, head of Private Propaganda in the General Department of the Army's Political Affairs Department, to the rank of brigadier general; Comrade 'Abdul 'Aziz, son of 'Abdul Alim, deputy head of the General Department of the Army's Political Affairs Department, to the rank of brigadier general.

[Signed] Haji Mohammad Chamkani, acting president of the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council

Congratulatory Messages From Hungary, CSSR, MPR
LD210633 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0424 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] Kabul, August 20, *Bakhtar* — Congratulatory messages addressed to Najib, general secretary of the PDPA CC, Haji Muhammed Chamkani, acting president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo of the PDPA and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA have been received here on the occasion of the 68th anniversary of the independence of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan from a number of friendly countries.

The courageous struggles of the people of Afghanistan for gaining their independence from the British colonialism have been praised in the messages. The leaders of the friendly countries while congratulating the party and the people of the DRA on the occasion of the day of the restoration of the independence of the country also wished further successes for the party leadership, state of the DRA and people of Afghanistan in securing peace and realisation of national reconciliation in the country.

The messages have been sent to the DRA by the Hungarian People's Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Mongolian People's Republic.

Congratulatory messages addressed to 'Abdul Sakil, Politburo member of the PDPA and minister of foreign affairs of the DRA were also received on this occasion from the foreign ministers of Mongolia, Czechoslovakia, and Bulgaria.

President's Speech on Floods, Student Politics
BK200815 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali
1303 GMT 19 Aug 87

[President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's address to the nation; place not given — live]

[Excerpts] Dear countrymen, peace be upon you. We are now facing devastating flood damage in Bangladesh; 305 subdistricts in the 46 districts are now reeling under the grip of floods. Nearly 15 million people have been affected. Their houses have been swept away, their land submerged, and their crops damaged. They want shelter and food. Everything is needed, including baby food. I am visiting the flood-affected people almost daily. I have spent nights with them. I have witnessed their helplessness and listened to their cries.

Flooding is an annual ordeal in Bangladesh. All of us have been the victim of floods. However, the country's northern districts were faced with flash floods twice this year. The flood-affected regions are gradually expanding. It is feared that more areas will be inundated. Many elderly people in the flood-hit areas told me that they have not seen such a devastating flood in the last 40 years. The rainfall this year is the highest in 75 years.

It is our sacred national duty to save the distressed men, women and children. We can fulfill this task only through a combined national effort. Relief operations have been initiated by the government, utilizing all our resources and methods. [passage omitted]

The need for a vigilant effort and a wholehearted initiative by the entire nation is much greater now than at any time in the past. The government's efforts alone, however, are not sufficient to meet this calamity. Therefore, I appeal to you. Come, let us extend a helping hand to our flood-affected brothers and sisters according to our means, even though it may entail some sacrifice on our part. I am repeating the call to generously donate to the President's Relief Fund for the flood-affected people. I convey my deep gratitude today to those who have been donating daily to this fund in response to my call. I firmly believe that with our joint efforts, God willing, we will be able to save and rehabilitate the people affected by the flood. I would like to state categorically to the brothers and sisters in the flood-affected areas that in your distress you are not helpless or alone. God, the most merciful, is with us. The whole nation is standing by you. We have faced natural calamities in the past and the pledge to the distressed has been met by me and my government. We will save each and every person. This is my firm pledge to you.

Dear countrymen, I would like to raise another issue of national importance today. A Dhaka University student made an impassioned appeal in a letter to a newspaper on 17 August. He asked the government, the university authorities, and his countrymen about the future for students. The student was admitted to the first year honors course at Dhaka University in the 1982-83 semester. His honors examination, scheduled for last 15 July, was postponed for the seventh time. He was admitted for a 3-year course. However, this is now the 6th year and he still has been unable to take the examination. He does not know when he will be able to appear for the examination, when he will be able to join the master degree classes, or when he will finish his courses. His parents do not know this, nor do the university authorities. His future is uncertain. The entire student community of Bangladesh is now facing the same uncertain future.

Two unfortunate incidents occurred at two Dhaka colleges on 17 August. In one college, the student union election ended in bomb blasts and two youths met a tragic death there while making a bomb. In another incident, the allocation of seats for students in classes and the hostel had to be postponed due to a bombing. An injured student is now in the hospital fighting for his life. The biggest and most presitigious educational institution in the country — Dhaka University — was once again closed indefinitely on 15 July following the deaths of a student and an innocent rickshaw driver during an armed clash between two rival student organizations.

Students in this country have a glorious past; the student movement once played a historic role in this country. This is a well-known fact.

From the British colonial days to the great war of independence in 1971, our student community was at the forefront in numerous struggles for national independence and the establishment of democratic rights. Universities and educational institutions were the source of new inspiration and thought. At that time, no student was concerned about his future. Seventeen years have passed since independence. The glory of our young students and youth should naturally become known to all. This is what the nation expected. However, did reality reflect these expecations? Can we proudly say today that the image of the student community since independence has remained intact and that it has maintained its past heritage? We are reluctantly forced to say no.

There was a time when people considered the universities to be a source of inspiration and courage. Today, they avoid the university area out of fear. It sounds rude, but it is true. It is time now to determine what and who are responsible for this undesirable situation. The students alone are not responsible for this state of affairs. They enter the schools, colleges, and universities to acquire knowledge and education to make themselves worthy citizens of the future. Once they enter, however, they become the targets and victims of a vicious circle. They become (?victims of the perversion) called the student movement. Petty party politics, extracurricular, political [words indistinct] massive use of arms have tarnished the glorious past of the student movement. Bombings, shootings, and murders are daily occurrences in various educational institutions, including the universities. The number of student organizations at the university corresponds to the number of political parties in the country. Capturing seats, halls, and rostrums, and eliminating rivals through force are now the main work of student organizations.

Our newspapers detail the extent of the deterioration taking place on Bangladesh campuses. During the period from 1 January 1972 to 30 June 1987, at least 116 students and 6 innocent passersby died in 318 clashes between students; 3,581 students were injured. A university teacher was permanently paralyzed in the fight to capture the Shahid Minar [place in Dhaka of frequent political gatherings]. A father sells his land and sends his son to the university with high hopes for him. That son is now going

home dead or crippled. During the same period, 11 student homes and 12 houses and shops were set ablaze in clashes between student organizations; 219 rooms in a student dormitory were burned to ashes; and 142 buses, minibuses and other vehicles were set on fire. Moreover, books, clothing, and other item in 778 rooms belonging to rival student groups were stolen. The homes of the vice chancellor, the registrar, and teachers, as well as offices, were also set on fire nine times. Students who are not members of any rival student organization, who are not killed or wounded in the clashes and conflicts, and whose books are not looted or whose dormitories are not set on fire are also in a bad situation. Their suffering and agony are greater because they cannot further their studies or sit for examinations. They are becoming too old to be employed. Their parents continue to worry about the students. The whole nation is victimized by this sordid state of affairs. The majority of students are not involved in the politics of arms and weapons, but still they are the victims of circumstances. [passage omitted]

Dear countrymen, I am not against politics because I believe in a democratic society. The existence of a variety of opinions makes for a democratic society. I never say that our youth should be politically naive. Everyone 18 years or older may vote. Therefore, taking part in politics is their constitutional right. However, the future of education will remain bleak if we accept the violent student movement. Therefore, all sensible people in society should come forward today to free the campuses from arms and violence. I believe that it is impossible to carry out the sacred duty of making students responsible citizens by involving them in petty party politics. Political consciousness and party affiliation cannot be synonymous.

A proposal to make all educational institutions, including universities, free from arms and fears was unanimously passed by the Parliament last February. I think that this proposal reflected the aspirations of all the people in this country, irrespective of parties and opinions. We all want campuses free from arms and terror. So long as political parties use students to serve their own interests and continue their policy of expanding their influence on campuses, the aspirations of the entire pouplation cannot be fulfilled. Therefore, let us face facts.

Factional conflicts on campuses will persist as long as the desire to increase party dominance through the students continues. At the same time, the use of arms will also continue. If we cherish the honest desire to revive a congenial atmosphere in educational institutions, then we must keep educational institutions free from arms. If we are true to the decision of getting arms out of the campuses, then the students must rise above party politics.

I would like to highlight this important issue today. Let us protect our educational institutions and our student community to save our country, which was established through great sacrifice, as well as our present and future. Let us free our students from the blind alley of factional politics. I call upon all political parties. Let us abandon the policy of forming student associations based on politics. In a democratic country, it is the people who determine which party should run the affairs of the state. It is through elections that the people are heard. In order to mobilize the electoral mandate and public opinion in our favor we have formed political parties. We have lost much; the nation need to catch up. The degradation in education has taken an unfortunate turn. Come, let us deny petty self-interest and respond to the call of time, history, and conscience. Remaining faithful to my beliefs and national responsibility, as chairman of the Jatiya Party, I declare the students' organization affiliated with my party — Jatiya Chhatra Samaj — dissolved as of today. At the same time, I announce the dissolution of the Jatiya Chhatra Parishad.

I appeal to the teachers of the country. In a sense, you are the architects of the country's future. The nation's future leaders are being shaped by you. Inculcate in them a national ideology, not a party perspective. Let your profound wisdom rid them of all narrow-mindedness and impurities in their hearts. Imbue our youths with the great task of loving the country and serving mankind. May God take care of you. Long live Bangladesh.

Students Protest Speech

BK201005 Hong Kong AFP in English
0949 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 20 (AFP) — Opposition student organizations Thursday protested President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's appeal to opposition parties to disband their students' wings.

"We don't take into cognisance what President Ershad has said about student politics. It matters little to us that he has disbanded his student wing," a senior figure with the opposition Awami League Party told reporters.

President Ershad announced Wednesday the dissolution of the student wing of his ruling Jatiya Party and called on opposition parties to follow suit to free campuses from politics.

Students staged protests after the president's speech, reports here said Thursday, and student groups charged that the disbanding of the Jatiya student wing was a prelude to a ban on student politics.

The Central Students' Action Committee (CSAC), which supports an opposition eight-party alliance led by Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed condemned the move and scheduled a protest march for later Thursday. Other student groups, including the Nationalist Student Party, the campus organisation of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), also protested President Ershad's decision.

The student groups issued separate statements charging that the government was trying to ban student politics in a bid to stifle anti-government unrest. They also blamed pro-government student organizations for violence that has swept campuses across Bangladesh over the past few weeks.

Rajiv Gandhi Interview by BBC on Current Events
BK170500 London BBC World Service in English
1345 GMT 16 Aug 87

["Calling India" program with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in Delhi moderated by BBC South Asian correspondent Mark Tully in London — live]

[Text] [Tully] Welcome to "Calling India." Our guest is Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister of India, the world's largest democracy. He came to power 3 years ago after the tragic assassination of his mother, Indira Gandhi, who dominated the Indian political scene for so many years. Rajiv Gandhi's grandfather, Jawahar Lal Nehru, was the first prime minister of independent India, and this weekend the nation has been celebrating the 40th anniversary of the day Britain handed over power and the long struggle for freedom ended.

Prime Minister, how have the celebrations gone?

[Gandhi] They've gone quite well, Mark. We've started the celebrations mainly to bring back the ethos, the values, and the ideals of the freedom struggle for a generation that has been born after independence. Unfortunately, because of the drought we've had to cut back on some of the programs, but we've kept the core going.

[Tully] Thank you very much, prime minister. Before we go on to our first question, may I just remind listeners that the lines to the studio are open. For those phoning from outside Britain, the number is London 580-4411, and for those phoning from Britain itself, the number is London 580-4444. Now, our first caller is on the line, and he is speaking from, he is a listener in Castigliano in Italy, Mr Venkat Reddy. Could you put your question to the Indian prime minister?

[Reddy] Yes. Is that Mr Gandhi?

[Gandhi] That's right, Venkat.

[Reddy] Mr Gandhi, I was going to ask you what did you think you have accomplished in your tenure of office by having so many cabinet changes, changes of ministers, of advisers, etc? What do you think you accomplished either for yourself or for India?

[Gandhi] I think we have to look at the full picture, Venkat. If you see what India has done in these 2 and 1/2 years, and compare that with any other 2 and 1/2 year period in these 40 years, you will find that we have achieved at least equivalent, if not more, than in any other similar period. On the foreign policy side, two major milestones: We signed the declaration last year in November with General Secretary Gorbachev which has been called the Dehli Declaration in which a major power, for the first time, has signed a document saying that they believe in nonviolence and the peaceful settlement of disputes and in peaceful coexistence. This is a very major breakthrough in international relations. Similarly, just a few weeks ago, we signed an agreement in Sri Lanka where again we have demonstrated that regional disputes, regional problems can be solved within the region without going to, without getting major powers involved in that. We have seen wherever big powers have been involved, the dispute has not ended but in fact become protracted and continued. We have in signing this agreement demonstrated that nonalignment works. On the internal situation, our economy has seldom done better than it has during these past 2 and 1/2 years. On internal disputes and problems, we started off with four or five major problems in the country, and we have sorted out most of them. We've got one problem which is still a big problem, which is facing us. That, of course, is Punjab, which is being a little more intractable than we had thought. But on the whole, if you see what we have done in these 2 and 1/2 years, whether it is on the internal economy, whether it is in opening out areas in India, whether it is in foreign policy, India has achieved a tremendous amount.

[Reddy] I see, but do you think that you have accomplished all that by constantly changing your ministers and advisers?

[Gandhi] Well, it seems to have worked, doesn't it?

[Reddy] Well, perhaps it has for what you have just said, all the accomplishments you have just said. But does that mean to say you can't have one steady cabinet?

[Gandhi] All the senior people have been steady right through. When you start bringing about change....

[Tully, interrupting] I think we better move on to the next question because we've got an awful lot of people on the line here, and we go next to Singapore. Miss Rangarajjah, and she is asking about Sri Lanka, I believe. Is that right? Could you put your question to the prime minister?

[Rangarajjah] Yes, good evening, Mr Prime Minister. As a Sri Lankan Tamil I wish to thank you for helping to bring peace to Sri Lanka. I wonder what you feel about the progress of the Indian-Sri Lankan accord so far?

[Gandhi] Well, Miss Rangarajjah, the accord is progressing fairly well. Whenever you have such a major, well, change in attitudes, there are going to be problems. But the problems have not been as many or as difficult or as intransigent as we had imagined, even when we set out ourselves. Things have been going fairly well. That does not mean that everything has worked out exactly as the plan. But the problems that have come up, we have been able to solve, and I have every confidence that it will hold, and we will be able to bring about a peace in northern and eastern Sri Lanka which will help the Tamils to live as full citizens of Sri Lanka.

[Tully] Prime Minister, I wonder if I could just come in here with one question before we go back to Rangarajjah. A lot of people here are asking, do you think it is going to be easy to get your Army out of Sri Lanka?

[Gandhi] Yes, I think it will be. As soon as the disarming is done, as soon as there is a confidence in the local people — that means the Sinhalese and the Tamils, the government and the citizens — and President Jayewardene asks us to, we will withdraw the Army instantly.

[Tully] Is that okay for you, Miss Rangarajjah?

[Rangarajjah] Yes, it is okay. I also wanted just to find out on a more personal note, my brother has been held in custody for a year and a half...

[Tully, interrupting] Miss Rangarajjah, there are an awful lot of people on the line, and I am very sorry but we really will have to go over to the next person. And the next question, I think will come from London, Miss Surjit Hussain.

[Hussain] Hello.

[Tully] Yes, put your question to the prime minister, would you Miss Hussain?

[Hussain] Hello Rajiv. Namaste [greetings].

[Gandhi] Namaste.

[Hussain] My question is: Can you make Indians understand that religion and politics are two different things? How long they are going to kill each other?

[Tully] Who is going to kill each other, Miss Hussain?

[Hssain] I mean all the people there, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and they are all fighting because India needs much more...rich country, such rich resources [as heard]. We are forgetting all that and we are just fighting for nothing. We should be concentrating on something much more constructive.

[Tully] Thank you.

[Gandhi] Thank you, Surjit. You are absolutely right, we should be concentrating on things much more constructive and, well, thank God, most of the country is. There are some small pockets where such tensions do arise, and it is essential to separate religion and politics. Unfortunately, it is harder than it seems. We are starting a debate all over the country, starting this week, we have promised a debate in parliament, to try and sort out how we can separate religion and politics. Part of the problem is that many of the smaller parties do not really have any policies or programs or any ideology, and when they do not have that they fall back on a religious crutch and use that which is, of course, very dangerous and raises tempers and attitudes which are best not involved in politics.

[Hussain] Thank you very much, but it really needs to be cured because 40 years since partition and all those souls suffering till today and that is really, it is the most important thing that they should be separated. That is the only thing we are going to see any success or any progress for our children, for tomorrow's children.

[Tully] Thank you very much, Miss Hussain, you are absolutely right, you have raised a question of great importance. Now we go over, I think, next to Karachi and Miss Ahsan Alkhas. Would you like to put your question to the prime minister of India, please?

[Alkhas] Good evening, Prime Minister. The question I would like to put is: Is the Sikh extremism in Punjab having adverse effects on government development schemes or projects in the region?

[Tully] The question is, Prime Minister, in case you did not get it: Is Sikh extremism in the Punjab affecting investment by your government there? Is investment by the government being cut back or are plans not being implemented?

[Gandhi] Not at all. In fact, we have just done a little, recently done a check on the economic situation in Punjab. Of course, it was just before the drought really set in, and we found that things were working extremely well in Punjab. There is only one problem in Punjab on the economic front and that is that because of the violence, the labor which used to come in from outside Punjab is not coming in and that poses some problems. But all the outputs are high, the production is high. There is no economic problem. We are investing also in Punjab. The number of new projects and new factories is coming up. So this is not really a problem at all in Punjab.

[Tully] Perhaps, Prime Minister, I could just butt in here and ask you are you concerned that in spite of the fact that you have imposed central government rule, the figures for violence still appear to be rising, in Punjab, of course.

[Gandhi] Yes it is a concern, Mark, but at the same time I would like to add that we have been able to get some of the worst terrorists during this period and we have found that every time we have got a bad terrorist, there has been a spurt just for the next 1 or 2 days after that.

[Tully] A spurt in violence?

[Gandhi] In violence, yes.

[Tully] So, Miss Ahsan Alkhas, does that answer your question for you?

[Alkhas] Well, thank you, it does.

[Tully] Good.

[Alkhas] Thank you, Prime Minister.

[Gandhi] Thank you, Miss Ahsan.

[Tully] Now we go over, I think, yes, to Muscat in Oman where a listener, Satish Anand Joshi, is waiting to speak to the Indian prime minister. Could you put your question, Mr Joshi?

[Joshi] Yes, please. Good evening, Prime Minister. My question is about the current drought situation in our country. I would like to know how bad it is actually, and what measures the government is going to ta[illegible]nd another thing, you know, we, the nonresident Ind[illegible]n, are as much concerned as any resident Indian. Is there any way that we can offer our help?

[Tully] That is an interesting point. Is there any way the nonresident Indians can offer help, Prime Minister, in the drought situation?

[Gandhi] Thank you, Mr Joshi, for your offer, and we could use help in many ways. Fortunately, our food situation is good and we will not have a food problem because the Green Revolution has given us that resilience and that strength. We have also, over a period of years now, developed expertise and experience in dealing with drought. So, it is not as serious as it could have been. We do not anticipate any food shortages. We anticipate problems with work because a lot of people who work on farms and fields will be without work because the crop has failed. A rough estimate at the moment is that approximately 15 million people will be unemployed because of the drought. There will be problems with drinking water and the most immediate problem is fodder for animals which has become very serious. We have taken a number of steps from government to see that these shortages are overcome, to see that government tightens up on its spending, and wasteful spending is reduced. We are appealing to the people to try and do the same thing. We would like nonresidents to be involved and they can help us in many ways, well, directly in funding. They could help us with expertise and technology in related subjects and, well, it depends on what the individuals are doing. I am sure we can use all the help that is available. And, I would like to also say at this point that although we have had a number of droughts, this is perhaps the most widespread drought that we have had since independence and, perhaps, for a long time before that. But we have now the strength to see that it does not become a famine like it did before independence.

[Tully] Does that answer your question, Mr Joshi?

[Joshi] Right, right, right, Mark.

[Tully] Thanks so much for ringing in. Now we go over to Europe again, we come back to Belgium and we have Mr Anantram Singh on the line. Would you put your question to Mr Rajiv Gandhi, prime minister of India?

[Singh] Oh, yes! Good evening, Mr Gandhi.

[Gandhi] Good evening, Anantram.

[Singh] My observation is as follows: It is nearly 200 years ago that the British first arrived in India, but the concept held by the world about their 150 years of stay is based almost solely upon the versions and records written and kept by the British who were there. I believe that versions in many cases are somewhat exaggerated which, in fact, downplays the virtues and the accomplishment of the Indian people as a nation. Don't you find this to be somewhat an obstacle to the smooth execution of the Indian foreign policy, and if so how do you plan to cope with it?

[Tully] Is that okay, Prime Minister?

[Gandhi] Well, I suppose it is all right, but linkage seems a little diffuse to me.

[Tully] A little diffuse to me too, but see what you can do with it.

[Gandhi] Well, I don't think that the question of whether the British stayed here 150 years or 170 years or 120 years or any variation on that has any effect on our foreign policy at all. Our foreign policy is based, if you come down to the roots, on the basic values and principles that we upheld during our freedom struggle. It is based on truth, it is based on nonviolence, and it is based on all humanity being equal and one. And that is interpreted in various ways whether it is nonalignment, whether it is disarmament, whether it is new economic policy, whether it is one brotherhood of human beings, and I don't think that is related in any way to the question of how long the British stayed in India.

[Singh] Well, my question was, if I can make it, or if I may make it a little more specific — even today the general opinion in the West and mostly in the European countries, the image of India is something like these people were ruled by the British and a lot of British people seem to contribute to this particular opinion. My question is did the Brits really rule India?

[Tully] Yes, I think, Prime Minister, there is an interesting point here. You know we have gone through a tremendous sort of nostalgia for the Raj recently here and I have often wondered whether you and other Indians actually don't find this nostalgia almost offensive in some ways?

[Gandhi] No, I don't find it at all offensive. I think it is a part of our history. We were ruled by the British. I don't think there is any question about that. We can go into intricacies and say that the British were not directly sitting in every state in India and Indian maharajas were ruling, but they were controlled by the British, the fact is that. And, I don't think there is anything to be ashamed of. What we are proud of is that we sent the British back.

[Tully] Now, Prime Minister, could we come on to modern foreign policy then? I think at least that is the impressions I get. Mr Joe Agar from America, we are now going right over to Houston in America and that is what I believe he would like to ask you about. Mr Agar, could you put your question please?

[Agar] Thank you. My question to Prime Minister Gandhi is the record of the voting of India in the United Nations. Ever since independence I do not recall once India voting against the Soviet bloc, always against the Western bloc.

[Tully] Has India voted against the Soviet bloc, Prime Minister?

[Gandhi] You know we don't see voting as against anybody. We see voting as voting for India. And if you see our voting record, you will see that India has voted on issues that are important to India and what is important to India. We have voted with the nonaligned, and I would like to say here that it is not a question of who we are voting for or who we are voting against, it is a question of the principles on which we are voting. We do not deviate from those principles and we feel that on many occasions certain countries have not voted with us. It is not a question of us voting with somebody, it is a question of who is voting with us.

[Tully] Prime Minister, how do you then justify, in particular, I think, a thing which confuses many people is your policy toward Afghanistan which does seems to be very much more pro-Soviet in your policy than would be right for a nonaligned country.

[Gandhi] No, we have made our position very clear on a number of occasions. We are for an Afghanistan which is independent,

which is nonaligned, which does not have any intervention or interference from outside powers and we have made that very clear both to the Soviet Union and to the United States and we would like to see that happen as soon as possible.

[Tully] Now, I think if that is all right for that question, Mr Agar, we will move to South Africa now, which is a country where the prime minister has been much involved in efforts to bring peace to that country and we have Jeff Tinker on the line from Cape Town, Could you put your question, please?

[Tinker] Yes, good afternoon to you, Prime Minister, and congratulations on your 40 years of independence. South Africa and India have been historically connected in many ways over the last 100 years and Mahatama Gandhi spent 20 of his politically formative years in this country. South Africans of Indian descent form a large and significant minority in our country. We now even have a South African ambassador of Indian extraction in Europe. What in your view would it take to normalize relations between South Africa and India?

[Gandhi] It is very simple. The abolition of apartheid.

[Tinker] Prime Minister, it is happening slowly, probably too slowly, but it is happening. Would not the carrot and the stick, would not there be a little bit more gained with a bit more carrot and a little less stick?

[Gandhi] You know what is worrying us is that the wrong people are getting the carrot and other lot are getting the stick.

[Tinker] That is a difficult one for me to answer. But living on the spot, the Indian people have not had an easy time in this country, but things have changed. We have a separate ethnic chamber in parliament which Indians vote for. It is not the end of the story, but things are moving. What would you suggest could be done to make things a bit better between our two countries?

[Gandhi] You know, Jeff, we are very clear in our mind. There are no half-way positions where human rights are concerned. You cannot say that they have a separate house. Yes, they may have a separate house, but that separate house (?sees) that they are treated differently and that is what we are objecting to.

[Tully] Well, I think probably we had better move on from that very important question, and now go to Bahrain where Qasin Ali Khan has a question to put.

[Khan] Good afternoon, Mr Prime Minister.

[Gandhi] Good afternoon, Qasim.

[Khan] It seems that India is very keen to keep the Southeast Asian subcontinent nuclear free. If this is so, then why she does not agree to mutual inspection of nuclear sites with Pakistan?

[Gandhi] I think you the mean the South Asian, because Southeast Asia is further east.

[Tully] Yes, I think you are right.

[Khan] Yes, South Asian subcontinent. Okay.

[Gandhi] We have offered a pact, treaty of peace and friendship to Pakistan which would clarify all such problems. Unfortunately, they are not willing to come forward and even talk about it.

[Khan] But there have been many statements by the government of Pakistan, especially by the foreign minister that we are willing to sign a pact that you inspect whatever we have and whatever you have, we inspect that. That will allay a lot of fears about Pakistan's nuclear ambitions, won't it?

[Gandhi] No it won't, because it's just not a question of a few facilities. It is the question of the total program and we have seen over these past years, whereas India has been very clear, we have not developed a nuclear weapon. [sentence as heard] We have demonstrated that we have the capability, but we have the will not to make a nuclear weapon. Pakistan is doing exactly the opposite. Where they do not have the capability, they are trying to make a nuclear weapon by, well, by the worst and most devious means — by smuggling things from outside, by stealing things from other countries — whether it is technology, whether it is materials. And it seems very clear to the whole world that Pakistan does have a nuclear weapon program.

[Tully] Prime Minister, could I come in here and ask you if Pakistan does make a nuclear bomb of some sort, will not India then be forced to go nuclear?

[Gandhi] Well, we will have to really measure our options at that point.

[Tully] What is the evidence actually that you are talking about when you make these accusations against Pakistan, because Pakistan insists that it is not making the bomb?

[Gandhi] Well, I don't think anybody in the world really believes what they are saying anymore. We have evidence of various things being smuggled out from special steel to triggering devices, to computer programs, all sorts of things and the list is so long.

[Tully] Well, Prime Minister, perhaps, we better move on from the question of Pakistan and the bomb and come back here to London now where Mr Madan Mohan Khalia has a question put to you. Could you come across the line, Mr Khalia?

[Khalia] Yes, please. Good afternoon, Gandhiji. My question is my great anxiety over the behavior of the opposition parties in the parliament of India. Whenever your government is doing certain things, those opposition parties instead of talking in the parliament with you or with your party, they go outside in the streets and they sit down and log marches to your houses and do all sorts of demonstrations which I think is not in the interest of national, national interest of India. [sentence as heard] Is it not possible for these opposition parties to be trained in the democratic ways of the world? We are the greatest democracy of the world, and yet our opposition is so immature.

[Tully] Mr Khalia, perhaps it is a bit rough to ask the prime minister of India how to make the opposition behave, but your question is an interesting one. He is asking why it is that the opposition goes in for demonstrations rather than conversations in parliamentary behavior, at least that is his view of their behavior.

[Gandhi] Well, it normally happens when they run out of arguments.

[Khalia] Yes, I must congratulate you, sir, that you are doing so much for the country and I would pray to God and pray to the opposition parties also to cooperate with the parliamentary system.

[Tully] Thank you very much, Mr Khalia.

[Gandhi] Thank you, Mr Khalia.

[Tully] Now, I think we move on to a listener in East Germany. Could you come across, Mr Trawltis. Could you put your question to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

[Trawltis] Good evening, Mr Prime Minister. First, my congratulations on the 40th anniversary of independence of India. My best wishes to you and your people for achievements in the developoment of the country, and your position in the world is widely recognized and admired. But what about the population growth? The population is approaching, as I know, 700 million. This is the problem for further social and economic development, and this gives rise to major concern and fears. Are there any promising plans and prospects for curbing the population growth rate?

[Tully] Population growth is a big question, of course.

[Gandhi] Yes, it is one of the big questions and I wish it was approaching only 700. It is approaching 800 million. It is one of our biggest problems and we have tackled it on a war front. we have got the growth rate down to below 2 percent after a long time, and we are optimistic that it will come down further. But, as you say, this is one of our major problems and we found that it is not just a question of population control programs. What is much more important is education and economic uplift, education, particularly for women, and we are trying to add these on to the program.

[Tully] Is it not one of the problems, Prime Minister, that you are making big strides with the middle classes and with the better off, but it is the poor people, particularly those living in the more backward parts of the country, who are still not really taking to family planning?

[Gandhi] It depends which way around you look at it. I feel that one of the most effective methods of family planning is economic uplift. And that is the way we have to go about it.

[Tully] Does that answer your question then, Mr Trawltis.

[Trawltis] Yes, Thank you very much.

[Tully] Good, well, now I think we are going to hear some more about education, which the prime minister was just talking about, from Professor Anant Malviya in Strasbourg. Would you like to put your question?

[Malviya] Yes. Mr Gandhi, the unity of India is greatest concern to you and to all of us. But how to restrict growing parochialism and restrain communal tendencies? One effective way to combat narrow sectarian and regional tendencies is to evolve education on national perspective and to invoke uniform educational policy throughout India. What effective measures is the central government taking in this direction, particularly at a time when each state is going in its own way in different direction in the matter of education?

[Tully] What hopes are there, Prime Minister, for a uniform national education policy which will help you to deal with the growing problems of regionalism and religious communalism?

[Malviya] Exactly.

[Gandhi] Thank you, Mr Malviya, for raising this point. This is the point that I had raised very strongly during my election campaign. It was one of our major planks for the election campaign in 1984. After that campaign we started a big debate in the country on the education policy. After a countrywide debate involving every section of society, we developed the new education policy which we have passed in parliament last year. We started implementing that policy from this academic year and the first indications are positive. I would not say that we have achieved 100 percent of what we set out to do, but, as you say, we started off from a position where every state was following an independent policy and pulling away from one national policy. But we have made a major breakthrough and, in the coming years, I think education will become one of our major integrating forces.

[Malviya] Mr Prime Minister, I do not know how far you are aware about the academic nothingness and total erosion of university autonomy in Indian universities. During the past 2 decades, universities in India have been deprived of academic leadership.

[Tully] Professor, I think we will have to move on now because we are running out of time and we do have an awful number of people in the queue. So if you would not mind, I'd like now to turn to Amsterdam in Holland and Mr Joshua Nord. I hope I got your name somewhere near right.

[Nord] Oh, this sounds all right. Good evening, Mr Prime Minister, from Amsterdam on behalf of all of us here in the warm heart of Holland. First of all, congratulations on your 40 years of independence, sir.

[Gandhi] Thank you.

[Nord] We like you and your people so much. I would like to ask you: Do you fear very much for your own life? We all saw here yesterday on television, part of the celebrations in India and where you spoke to your own people on [as heard] such big distance; television even wants us to believe that you are wearing

a bullet-proof vest. I understand all this against the background of tragedies in your family. But how safe do you feel in your own country?

[Gandhi] No, I feel absolutely safe.

[Nord] It is a very short answer.

[Tully] Well, I don't think we can go into that question in too much detail because it's quite clear that the Indian prime minister has faced threats to his life, but he has faced them with considerable courage. So, if you wouldn't mind, Mr Joshua Nord, I think we will go on now to a neighboring country near West Germany, Cologne [as heard], and we have, I think, it is Mr Ashok Vijay there.

[Ashok] Hello.

[Tully] Hello, Can you put your question to the Indian prime minister, Ashok?

[Ashok] Yes. Mr Gandhi, I would like to ask you as an individual how you personally visualize the future of our country in the next 10 to 15 years?

[Gandhi] Well, that requires a very long answer.

[Ashok] A short one then.

[Gandhi] [Laughs] It's still difficult to put all that in the short. Well, on the one hand we do visualize a complete economic change, and I won't go into the details of that but most particularly in the rural areas and the more underdeveloped areas. But more than that, I feel what is necessary for India is to go back to our more traditional values. With a sort of race for economic uplift, we seem to have lost our deeper values and seem to be now homing in on perhaps much more materialistic values than India has ever been doing in the past. And I feel this is a very grave danger, not just for India but for other values all over. And I would like us to come back to that. I also feel that India must give a lead to the world in giving new ideas. We have been giving ideas throughout history. And it's necessary that we come back into such a position. For example, our Gandhiji [Mahatma Gandhi] has given us three basic, well, tenets, if you want, on which we have based our foreign policy and internal policies. And I feel that they are essential to keep peace in the world and to keep the world developing in the right direction, as for example, truth, nonviolence, and one brotherhood for humanity. Now, this is a basic change from attitudes in the world today where the world seems to be divided into ours and theirs, in spheres of influence, in power blocs, which cannot lead to peace and which cannot lead to a satisfaction in development. We found...

[Tully, interrupting] Prime Minister, could I just bring you back to something you were saying earlier, because I think it interests a lot of people. You were talking about Mahatma Gandhi and what he has done. But how much is Mahatma Gandhi actually remembered and how much are his standards lived by in your own country nowadays?

[Gandhi] He is remembered very much. His standards are still adhered to to a great degree. But there is erosion and that's what we want to stop and we want to bring it back, bring them back, in a much greater degree, and I think we will be able to do that.

[Tully] I am sorry, I interrupted you there, Mr Vijay. Did that answer your question, all right?

[Ashok] Primarily, yes. What I wanted to actually know was how Mr Gandhi personally as an individual feels, not only as a prime minister.

[Tully] Could we have a brief answer to that one?

[Gandhi] We put that briefly. Let's go to India back to what it was when the British were looking out for India 250 years ago.

[Tully] [Laughs] That's going to be a very interesting thing in replying to. Now let's go to Al-Madinah where we have Ahmad Ataur Rahman who wants to put a question. Could you put your question, Mr Rahman, to the Indian prime minister, please?

[Rahman] Yes, I want to ask you, Mr Gandhi, to what extent do yu think that Pakistan is involved in the terrorism in the Punjab?

[Tully) It's not a very good line. So I'll just repeat that question: How far is Pakistan involved in the Sikh terrorism in Punjab?

[Gandhi] Well, we feel they are.

[Tully] Could you say a bit more than that, Prime Minister?

[Gandhi] We feel that they are. We still have people crossing the border. And it's not only the problem on that borders, not only with Sikh terrorism, but also with drugs which come across from Pakistan into India. And we have been trying to stop that, we have been in touch with the government. We have talked about it on a number of occasions, but really haven't made much headway.

[Tully] But you had talks with Pakistan fairly recently on this. What has been the result of these talks?

[Gandhi] They do not seem to have made too much progress.

[Tully] Do you have any more points on that very important subject, Mr Rahman?

[Rahman] I wanted to ask him does he think that the government of Pakistan is involved in any way with the Sikh terrorists there?

[Tully] Or what you are saying is it individuals who are involved or is it the government of Pakistan itself which is involved.

[Rahman] Yes, the whole question about it. I mean, does Mr Gandhi have some concrete proof which substantiates these allegations?

[Tully] So, is the government itself involved, Prime Minister, and do you have any concrete proof?

[Gandhi] Well, it is very difficult to say whether governments are involved or not. But I will say this much that one weapon that they recovered from a terrorist had been sold to the Pakistan Government by the manufacturer.

[Tully] Just one weapon [words indistinct] is that the evidence?

[Gandhi] Well, I am giving one evidence. We have other as well.

[Tully] Well, now could we move on then from that question, because time really is sadly beginning to run out. We will go to Dr Mehrudeen in Nova Scotia in Canada and ask him to put his question to the Indian prime minister.

[Mehrudeen] Hello, Mr Gandhi, hello.

[Gandhi] Go ahead, Mehrudeen.

[Tully] Go ahead.

[Mehrudeen] Hello, Mr Gandhi.

[Tully] Go ahead please, well, the prime minister is hearing you Dr Mehrudeen.

[Gandhi] Yes.

[Dr Mehrudeen] Well, Mr Gandhi, you know we are very pleased what you are doing right now. I think you have great admiration and understanding here among all sections of people in Canada and United States. And I come myself from Kashmir and I am very proud that...

[Tully, interrupting] Could you be brief, Dr Mehrudeen, we are running out of time.

[Mehrudeen] But, I would like to ask you a question. What would you think that your greatest achievement would be and what would you like history the most to remember you for?

[Tully] It is a bit early for that, Prime Minister, is not it? But still what is your greatest achievement so far?

[Gandhi] Well, we listed somewhat earlier in the program and I do not want to repeat them. We made a lot of progress both in our foreign policy, in achieving peace in a number of areas, in raising issues which we feel are important, economic problems at home, our political problems at home, law and order problems at home, we have done quite well right round.

[Tully] Good, well now we got to move on very quickly to Karachi and Mr Haisadeenji there, who, I think, also wants to speak to you about the economy. Can you speak? Good. Can you put a question please? Oh, I think we have lost that one, unfortunately, but the question he was going to ask you, Prime Minister — I hope he can hear your answer — is: Can India achieve an economic revolution domestically, an internal domestic economic revolution?

[Gandhi] Oh, I have no doubt that we can. We have already made tremendous progress on that route and I think the next few years are critical and we can make a turn around and show the world that India really is in a position from which it can take a leap forward and catch up at many fronts.

[Tully] Well, I hope that question was heard in Karachi and the answer was heard in Karachi. And now I am afraid that this will have to be our final question. And we come back to Europe and Mr Mungrai in Belgium. Will you put your question and we hope that the line will stand up to the Indian prime minister.

[Mungrai] Well, my question is very simple. Prime Minister has just raised the essential point of my question. Gandhiji [words indistinct] Rajiv Gandhi and he brought a new message to the whole world based on Indian philosophy.

[Tully] Could we have a quick question?

[Mungrai] The question is how does he see the Indian heritage for the future of India to derive a new message for the next generation as he is new prime minister.

[Tully] Very briefly, Prime Minister.

[Gandhi] We do not need a new message; we have got Mahatma Gandhi's message which is very very powerful. What we need is to disseminate it properly in and interpret it for today's world, which is what we are trying to do. I have no doubt that Mahatma Gandhi's message is strong and powerful enough to deal with the problems that the world is facing today [words indistinct] to India's heritage.

[Tully] Prime Minister, I am afraid we will have to cut you short then. I am afraid that we have to cut off there because we are running out of time. Thank you so much, Prime Minister. Thank you, listeners, and thank you to All India Radio and our team in Delhi.

[Gandhi] Thank you, Mark, and thank all those who called in.

Pakistani Sri Lanka Accord Criticism 'Uncalled For'

BK201621 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] India views Pakistan's criticism of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement as entirely uncalled for and says it has no locus standi in casting aspersions on the agreement concluded between the two sovereign countries. The agreement has received universal acclaim and brought peace to the area.

Reacting to Pakistan's foreign secretary's comments on the remarks made by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in his recent interview to BBC, an official spokesman said in New Delhi that the Indian peacekeeping force has been sent to Sri Lanka at the request of the island's government. To draw any parallel between the situation in Sri Lanka and some states in India is totally uncalled for and is tantamount to interference in our internal affairs. Pakistan should remember that India has scrupulously avoided any reference to the conditions prevailing in Sind and Baluchistan, apart from the plight of Pakhtoons and Qadianis.

Pakistan's denial of involvement in extremists activities directed against India and its weapons-oriented nuclear program are utterly incredible.

The spokesman said ample evidence has been furnished to Pakistan on supply of weapons to terrorists, setting up of training camps, abetting incidents of hijacking, and use of the media for inciting terrorism. Pakistan has not been able to refute it.

Pakistan's nuclear program — its nonpeaceful dimensions, and clandestine nature — the spokesman said, is now clearly established and well-documented. Pakistani nationals have been caught red-handed while smuggling nuclear triggering switches and other materials. About India's nuclear program, the spokesman said it has been commended the world over for its peaceful orientation.

Referring to the Pakistan foreign secretary's comments about the hospitality shown by India to Badshah Khan [Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan], the spokesman said it was for love and affection that the people of India have for the Frontier Gandhi for his stellar role in the subcontinent's struggle against foreign domination. The award of the country's highest honor — Bharat Ratna — and the dispatch of a high-level delegation with him to Peshawar was only natural and fitting. Pakistan's remarks are out of a sense of guilt in having failed to do likewise for Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan.

Export of Reactors, Heavy Water Technology Possible

BK201156 Hong Kong AFP in English
1038 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 20 (AFP) — India would start exporting nuclear reactors and heavy-water technology in a few years, the chief of the country's main nuclear research centre was quoted as saying here Thursday. India had already received requests for reactors and heavy-water technology from some countries, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported, quoting P.K. Iyengar, director of the Bhaba Atomic Research Centre in Bombay. Dr. Iyengar did not say which countries had made the requests but said the 235-megawatt nuclear reactor developed by Indian scientists would be best suited to the needs of developing nations.

India, which exploded a "pacific" nuclear device in 1974, has one of the most advanced nuclear-power programs in the developing world. The avowedly peaceful program is targetted at producing 10 percent of all power generated in India by the turn of the century.

Dr Iyengar told a group of science writers that the research centre had the capability to make a nuclear bomb, but denied reports that a rare earths plant set up near Mysore, southern India, was a "bomb factory," PTI said.

India's five nuclear reactors and one research reactor were safe, and the Dhruva research reactor at Trombay, near Bombay, was so safe that a radiation release would not go beyond surrounding hills even if it was bombed, he said. Dr Iyengar said Indian scientists were working on developing special cannisters to store radioactive wastes for up to 30 years.

MP's Demand White Paper on Foreign Role in Punjab

BK201010 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] The Rajya Sabha today strongly condemned the ghastly killings of innocent people by terrorists at Mustafapur village in the Jullunder District. It offered condolences to the bereaved families.

Members of all opposition parties expressed sympathy to the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, whose close relatives have been killed in a brutal manner. They demanded that the government should review the Punjab situation which is worsening day by day. Several of them suggested that the prime minister should call an all-party meeting to discuss measures to deal with the situation.

The leader of the house, Mr N. D. Tiwari, appreciating the sentiments of opposition members, said that he would convey their desire to the prime minister. He said political parties of all hues and colors are united in the fight against terrorism. The ghastly assault of terrorists was condemned by one and all.

The deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Mrs Pratibha Patil, said that innocent people are being killed mercilessly and this is a matter of grave concern. Opposition members were of the view that the Punjab situation has deteriorated since the imposition of president's rule and the security measures have not proved adequate. They wanted more stringent steps to curb the menace of terrorism.

There was a suggestion that the Army should be asked to assist the security forces and a security belt created along the western border.

There was also a demand that the government should come out with a white paper which should also specify the role of Pakistan, the United States, and other powers.

Lok Sabha Passes Amendment to Security Act

BK201012 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] The Lok Sabha today passed a bill to amend the National Security Act in its application to Punjab and the Union Territory of Chandigarh. The bill seeks to replace the presidential ordinance promulgated in June last.

Under the provisions of the bill, the maximum period of detention without communicating the grounds [of detention] to the detenues [detainees] is increased from 10 days to 15 days. It also provides for detention, in certain cases, of up to 6 months without obtaining the opinion of the advisory board.

The minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, who piloted the bill, also moved an amendment to make the bill constitutionally valid. Before adopting the bill, the house rejected all opposition amendments by voice vote.

Kharrazi Confirms Defensive Mining of Gulf

LD202209 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] During a press conference Thursday night with film and photographic crews from 20 countries, Kharrazi, the supervisor of the War Information Headquarters spoke about the most important regional developments and events taking place in the Persian Gulf in the past few days.

Noting the stands adopted by the Islamic Republic in the region, the War Information Headquarters supervisor referred to the U.S. justification for its presence in the Persian Gulf. He said: Developments such as mining the UAE coastal waters and attacks on Liberian and Yugoslav tankers are in line with U.S justifications for its presence in the region. Therefore, we consider these developments to be (?suspicious), unclear, and the result of efforts by the United States or its agents to portray the Persian Gulf as a region of crisis and unrest. It has been quite some time since the Iraqi regime stopped its attacks on ships, and the region has been tranquil. Today, given the present situation, the fundamental question is why the United States does not leave the region. In order to escort Kuwaiti oil tankers, the United States is taking a high risk. However, it seems that it continues this policy in order to maintain its superpower posture. At any rate, we consider ourselves victorious and Iraq the loser.

A British correspondent asked if the presence of foreign minesweeping fleets had not been helpful in the task of mine-clearing since the intention was to clear the mines in the Persian Gulf. Kharrazi replied: We have sufficient facilities and power to clear mines, and we cannot agree to the presence of foreign fleets in the region. We stress that Iran is making efforts to use its fleet to clear mines in the international waters, and that by using mines, we are not trying to deny security to shipping in the Persian Gulf. We are simply trying to use our maritime capabilities to defend our coastlines.

Responding to a question on whether Iran could safeguard shipping in the Persian Gulf if Iraq stopped attacking ships, he affirmed: Absolutely, and we have done so up to this point.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Offers Shipping Attack Truce

LD211320 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] On the eve of Muharram, the month of victory of blood over the sword, Muslim and revolutionary Iranian people participated in the political Friday prayers today and performed this Mohammadan ritual with great glory. Meanwhile, the masses of Hezbollah citizens of Tehran, along with those at the Tehran University campus and in the surrounding thoroughfares, performed the Friday prayers under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In today's Friday sermons, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council referred to the psychological warfare that the United States has launched in the Persian Gulf. He said: This psychological warfare has been defeated both from an economic and a political standpoint. The United States claims that so far it has spent some $40 billion [as heard] on escorting Kuwaiti oil tankers. Is this economical for the United States? If the United States intends to keep the region secure in this way, well, Khawr Fakkan was already secure. It became insecure when you came in, because before your intervention the Persian Gulf did not need any minesweeping. If all the world's minesweepers come here now, they cannot diminish the risk of mines in the Persian Gulf.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: If, from the political standpoint, the region became thoroughly polluted with your entry into the Persian Gulf, you forced [Saudi] Arabia to commit suicide [as heard]. The house of Al Sa'ud [left to itself] would have been too wise to stain its hands with the Mecca crime. [Saudi] Arabia will no longer be able to rise unscathed after that crime. From now on, you are relying on a broken boat, one which you have broken yourselves.

Emphasizing that the United States is not seeking security in the Persian Gulf, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council stated: Giving Exocet missiles to Saddam to strike at ships and putting Super-Etendard aircraft at the disposal of the Iraqi regime are aimed at making the Persian Gulf insecure. If you were seeking security in the Persian Gulf, you would not have given those things to Iraq in the first place and would have told Iraq 2 months ago not to attack ships any longer. The U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf has two goals: first, to prevent Saddam from falling, and second, in the event of Saddam's fall, to protect the next trenches down the line.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that if the Iraqi regime does not attack ships in the Persian Gulf, we will not attack either. He said: U.S. effectiveness in the Persian Gulf is low. You have seen our mines and our boats. We have other things at our disposal that you do not know about and that we will reveal at the appropriate time. Moreover, even if you have the equipment and if you try to attack Iran from the sea, nothing will be resolved, for every one of your naval craft is a target for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Noting that large sums of money are being spent in the United States to sway U.S. public opinion in Reagan's favor, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We are not seeking to confront the United States or to escalate the war. If a war is imposed on us, we will be ready to defend ourselves. Our defense will have no limits. This will be an all-out war.

Referring to the gathering of the war support supreme councils in Tehran, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council addressed the people and stated: We consider it likely that psychological warfare will become serious at some stage. You should be ready. We have no doubt that in a confrontation with arrogance, God has already ordained victory for Islam and Muslims.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then turned to the bloody massacre by the Saudi regime's police in Mecca. Comparing the characteristics of that event to the Karbala' event [Imam Husayn's martyrdom], he said: The house of Al Sa'ud has struck at its own roots by that action. Today it is not necessary for the Islamic Republic of Iran

to avenge that event. Hundreds of thousands of young people in the world are angry about that event and will avenge it.

Turning to Islamic banking, the Majlis speaker described the objectives of the country's banking system. He referred to Government Week, which will begin next Sunday, and called on the people to give the government the necessary cooperation.

'Violent Storm' Halts Minesweeping in Gulf

NC210713 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] A violent storm has forced suspension of minesweeping operations in the Persian Gulf. According to the Central News Unit, the intensity of the storm is so great that tankers being escorted by the United States have been halted, and the minesweeping operations within a 550-mile [as heard] radius of Kuwait have been suspended. The bad weather conditions have caused turbulence, heavy precipitation, and gales. The report states that vessels bound for Kuwait docked 30 miles northeast of Bahrain yesterday.

Tehran Claims Western Forces Creating 'Powder Keg'

LD201426 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1102 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. At a time when the British Government is actively striving, under the pretext of minesweeping in international waters, to drag more Western countries into the Persian Gulf in order to increase the West's military presence in this region, a number of foreign correspondents yesterday visited the areas where the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is busy minesweeping, They closely observed the effective facilities and capability of the Islamic Republic of Iran in discovering and detonating mines. It is necessary to mention that shortly after the planting of mines in the Gulf of Oman by the United States on the 1st day of this week, our country's Navy, using its effective facilities and skilled personnel, cleared a considerable area. Our Navy is determined to maintain the safety of international waterways as far as possible.

However, in following Washington's policies and strengthening its arrogant front in the Persian Gulf, the British Government is actively trying to escalate the presence of the Western governments both qualitatively and quantitatively, while ignoring the capabilities, resources, and possibilities of the regional countries to maintain security in the Persian Gulf.

After agreeing to escort Kuwaiti ships, the Reagan government intended to attract more support from the Western countries by dragging them into the Persian Gulf in order to reduce the pressure on Washington and minimize the possible consequences of such dangerous adventurism. By doing so, the Reagan government also intends to turn a military intervention — which is taking place to stress Washington's determination to support the affiliated regimes of the region and to restore its prestige which was lost as a result of McFarlane's aborted mission in Tehran — into a show of solidarity between Washington and other Western governments. It is interesting to note that when announcing its acceptance of the Kuwaiti Government's proposal, in reply to the questions raised by opponents, the Reagan government referred to the need to safeguard the flow of oil from the Persian Gulf to the West. By resorting to such an argument, it was trying, first, to justify the risk involved and, second, to involve its Western allies because of their dependence on the Persian Gulf oil.

Everyone realizes that the Iraqi regime is the source of tension in the Persian Gulf because of its repeated attacks. The Islamic Republic of Iran has always emphasized that the littoral states of the Persian Gulf should strive to restore the security of this region without the presence or intervention of foreign powers. It was in line with this policy that the Islamic Republic of Iran, when Washington declared its support for the Kuwaiti ships, clearly announced that should the Iraqi regime continue its atrocities, Islamic Iran will not hesitate at all to implement its retaliatory policy. Moreover, in responding to Saddam's evil deeds, Iran would not give political consideration to the flag or force of any country.

In view of Iran's determination to secure its rights, the Reagan government forced the Iraqi regime to stop attacking oil tankers before implementing the plan to escort the Kuwaiti ships. Using its warships and sophisticated military equipment, the Reagan government then began to escort Kuwaiti ships and, in due course, brought more and more warships to the Persian Gulf. In a period of less than 1 month, the total number of U.S., French, and British ships has doubled. In addition to imposing a heavy cost on the Western governments, this level of military presence has turned the region into a powder keg. A tiny spark might blow it up any moment, setting the region ablaze and drawing the Western forces into its flames.

If, as agreed, the Iraqi regime stops its attacks on merchant ships at the behest of Washington, thus restoring shipping safety in the Persian Gulf, why is the Reagan government dispatching such quantities of military forces to the region? The point is, this so-called show of strength is intended to take place in a manner that protects the U.S. forces from the danger of a military clash, as far as possible. This display also ensures that incidents similar to the events in Lebanon are not repeated.

In any case, it is significant that merely the concentration and escalation of so much military power in the Persian Gulf region has created suitable conditions for any small incident to set this powder keg ablaze, annihilating the warmongers and leaving the rest with some constructive memories.

Paper Calls for Hizballah Groups Throughout World

AU210754 Paris AFP in English 0112 GMT 21 Aug 87

[Text] Paris, Aug 21 (AFP) — The Iranian daily *Jomhuri-ye Eslami* (Islamic Republic), monitored in Paris, has called on Muslims to "shoulder their responsibilities and set up Hizballah (Party of God) resistance groups throughout the world." It said the groups should be formed "alongside the fight being waged

with such bravery by the Iranian troops" who have been at war with Iraq for the past seven years.

Echoing a speech by Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni to Iranian pilgrims last month, the paper said in today's inter-dependent world "proven methods of struggle can be applied everywhere, either as they are or with slight modifications to take into account cultural, political and social peculiarities."

The actions of Lebanese fundamentalists could "serve as a model for an Islamic revolution in other Muslim countries," the paper said.

Khomeyni Receives Education, Banking Officials

LD201141 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] Directors of the regional and area offices of the Ministry of Education, accompanied by Minister of Education Akrami; undersecretaries of that ministry; directors of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance; directors and personnel of the national banking system, accompanied by Mr Iravani, minister of economic affairs and finance; and Mr Qasemi, the governor of the Central Bank, met with Imam Khomeyni today at his Jamaran residence.

During this meeting, to which the directors of regional and area offices of the Ministry of Education wore the uniform of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the minister of education submitted a report on the performance and services carried out by the ministry during the previous year. The report included information on educating the children of martyrs, free meals for the students of Baluchestan va Sistan Province, attention to deprived pupils, the pupils' contribution to the war efforts — their activities on the battlefield, as well as martyrs offered by them — and also the construction of 450 school buildings which were financed by public contribution and by allocations from the imam. The report also included plans for the next 5 years in educational matters.

The minister of economic affairs and finance submitted a report on banking development under Islamic rules. He drew attention to the principle of usury [as heard], as well as to the scale of people's deposits, agricultural development projects, employment of war refugees, reconstruction of war-damaged areas, the establishment of pharmacies in rural area, housing construction in rural areas by banks, the provision of personal loans to government personnel, and other activities of this ministry and of the banks.

Having submitted this report to the imam of the ummah, he stressed that the important message of the imam of ummah on economic problems has brought about a new development in favor of the oppressed and deprived. He also said that numerous committees have been set up to research methods on implementing the contents of the message. He also thanked the imam of the ummah for his attention and kindness.

The report adds that at the end of the meeting the imam of ummah responded to the expression of good feelings by those present.

Medhi Hashemi's Trial Ends; Deliberations Begin

LD201622 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 20, IRNA — The last session of the trial of Mehdi Hashemi, former head of the Liberation Movements Bureau in the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), concluded here Wednesday and the special court presided over by Hojjat ol-Eslam Razini went into deliberation after hearing the last defences of the plaintiff.

Hashemi was arrested last November on several capital charges including murder, kidnapping and activities against the Islamic Republic. Subsequently a 750-page criminal case was filed against him by prosecuter Hojjat ol-Eslam Fallahian. During his trial, Hashemi confessed to most of the charges against him and pleaded for Imam Khomeyni's pardon. Meanwhile, trial of two accomplices of Hashemi, who are among a group arrested in this connection, started here today.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Communique No 2,934

LD201650 Tehran IRNA in English 1641 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug 20, IRNA — One civilian was martyred and 13 others wounded Wednesday when Iraqi warplanes bombed villages near Sardasht in western Iran as well as Bandar-e Deylam in Khalij-e Fars Province, said a military communique here Thursday.

The 2934th Joint Staff communique said that Iranian naval forces continued their mine sweeping operations in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman yesterday simultaneous with the shelling of Iraq's Al-'Amayah and Al-Bakr oil platforms at the northern tip of the Persian Gulf.

The communique said that a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded, parts of enemy positions were set ablaze and three gun emplacements, three vehicles and an anti-aircraft gun were destroyed in the northwestern fronts by Iranian artillery fire yesterday.

In the western fronts, Iranian forces shelled Iraqi motorized and armoured units on the western axis between west of Naft-e Shah and Zurbatiyah Wednesday, destroying several enemy tanks, personnel carriers and vehicles.

Exchange of artillery fire continued sporadically throughout the southern fronts yesterday raging somewhat more heavily in Faqqeh where several Iraqi soldiers were killed and 10 enemy gun emplacements and observation posts as well as some vehicles were destroyed.

An Iraqi patrol convoy sustained several casualties and losses, and was forced to flee in Sumar, western fronts, after a clash with

Iranian Muslim combatants Wednesday, the communique concluded.

Iraq Chemically Bombs Villages

LD201737 Tehran IRNA in English 1728 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., Aug. 20, IRNA — The Iraqi regime chemically bombed three of its own villages in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province last week when all its efforts to retake liberated areas of the province ended in failure, according to reports reaching here from inside Iraq today.

The reports also said that Peshmergas of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in coordination with their compatriots of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) destroyed eight military bases and killed 22 government soldiers during their operations in Shaykhan and Aqra regions, northeastern Iraq, over the same period.

The Peshmergas also seized a considerable amount of weaponry and munitions including eight rocket propelled grenades (RPG-7), ten Kalashnikov rifles, 7,000 cartridges, two revolvers, 55 grenades, two wireless sets and 10 mines, in the course of the operations, the reports said.

'Strong Protest' Lodged on Afghan Border Shelling

BK201532 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] Afghan Armed Forces fired 67 artillery rounds last Friday [14 August] at the (Nukha) region in the Bajaur Agency, which killed 1 person and injured 13 others. On the same day, the Afghan forces fired 50 artillery rounds at an area 6 km northeast of (Wakhai) in the Bajaur Agency, injuring 1 person.

Last Sunday, four artillery shells were fired at an area south of (Nakka Tinda) in the Kurram Agency. One person was injured in this shelling.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Ofice this morning and a strong protest was lodged with him on these unprovoked attacks.

Commentary Assesses National Goals on Anniversary

BK151558 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1605 GMT 14 Aug 87

[Ghani Erabi commentary]

[Text] That Pakistan has survived as an independent, sovereign state in a hostile environment is by itself an occasion for celebration. That Pakistan has prospered economically is a reason for jubilation. And while it is a matter for deep regret that the nation has repeatedly fumbled in its quest for democracy, it is cause for self-satisfaction that it is celebrating its 40th anniversary under a democratic dispensation and within a framework of Islamic polity.

The people yet have not been freed from tramatic experiences. Nations, like individuals, have to face tragedies in their lives. Kashmir and east Pakistan were the tragedies we had to endure, much the same way India had to face the humiliation of defeat at the hands of China in 1962. However, taking the defeat to heart India tightened her belt and geared the bulk of her resources into building up her military strength to the level of a mini-superpower. Now she is trying to impose her (?supremacy) on the region.

India's invasion of East Pakistan in 1971, the accession of the Himalayan state of Sikkim in 1974, the current stationing of the troops in Sri Lanka to solve the problem of India-backed Tamils, and its effort to send Indian troops to Bangladesh to sort out the issue of India-based refugees from Chittagong tracts also present a serious challenge to the sovereignty of the smaller nations of the region. India has offered a friendship treaty to Pakistan, [which] contains clauses that restrict Pakistan's sovereignty which Pakistan has categorically rejected.

India's tries to control Pakistan's foreign and defense policy are the gravest challenge faced by Islamabad as the nation enters the 41st year of her existence. Pakistan has sought to meet the challenge by all-out effort to modernize its defense forces and by building a network of close friendships attracted by the country's strategic location at the crossroads of history. Pakistan's ties with the Islamic world are a lynchpin of its foreign policy. The other lynchpin being Islamabad's close understanding with China. The relations with the United States provide not only an invaluable backup for its economic strength, but also has played a vital role in modernizing its defense capability through the supply of such sophisticated equipment as F-16's. However, notwithstanding the crucial arms supply relationship, Pakistan has not permitted any compromising of its independence. It has rejected American pressure to give up its nuclear program telling the visiting U.S. undersecretary, Michael Armacost, it would not allow any inspection of its nuclear installations until India does the same. And it has not hesitated to deplore the American invasion of Grenada as strongly as the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. And Islamabad has enjoyed overwhelming UN backing on both.

Pakistan's economic progress has virtually been spectacular. Since 1949 fiscal, our gross national product has been [words indistinct] at 5.5 percent and the per capita income has increased by 140 percent despite the explosion of population at 3 percent per annum. It is the highest among the nine most populous countries of the world and presents a democratic challenge Pakistan will have to face sooner or later.

Another major challenge is offered by the fact that although our per capita income today at $330 is the highest in South Asia, our rate of domestic savings and investment is among the lowest. That means we are living too lavishly and imperiling our future economic growth. But, as of today, we have no good reason to feel dissatisfied with ourselves.

Though much belatedly and haltingly, we nevertheless have managed to lay the foundations of the democratic parliamentary system which certainly will take root and grow. We have prospered economically and we have [words indistinct] held our own in facing new threats to our national sovereignty. The people therefore have every right to enter the 5th decade of the country's independence with pride in the past performance and hope in the future prospects.

Gandhi Sends Message to President on Bombing
BK201220 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Aug 87

[Text] Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in a message to President J. R. Jayewardene has expressed deep shock at the senscless and barbaric act of terrorism in the hallowed precinct of Parliament. Mr Gandhi notes that this dastardly act deserves the strongest condemnation. He said that he was greatly relieved to learn of President Jayewardene's miraculous escape.

The Indian prime minister said that he was distressed to hear that District Minister Keerthi Abeywickrema succumbed to his injuries and added that they will remember him as an outstanding Sri Lankan patriot and as a good friend. He also conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

Mr Gandhi also expressed his wish for the speedy and complete recovery of the parliamentary colleagues of the president who have been injured during the attack.

AFP: Emergency Laws Extended 1 Month
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[Text] Colombo, Aug 20 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan Parliament Thursday approved the extension by one month of emergency laws that give the security forces sweeping powers to combat anti-government rebels.

Earlier Thursday, MP's agreed to censorship of all reports of parliamentary proceedings as they met amid tight security following Thursday's attempt to assassinate the president and his cabinet in Parliament.

The emergency laws extension was approved by 111 MP's. Ten opposition members voted against it, arguing that the extraordinary powers were being used to prevent them holding public meetings and to censor local press.

The state of emergency was imposed in May 1983 after Tamil separatists stepped-up attacks on government targets.

An opposition MP of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party accused the government of carrying out mass arrests in his southern constituency and of detaining opposition supporters for long periods without trial.

The south is the stronghold of a banned Marxist group, the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP — People's Liberation Front), which President Junius Jayewardene has blamed for Tuesday's grenade attack that left a junior minister dead and several senior ministers seriously wounded. The JVP led a bloody insurrection against the government in 1971 in which at least 10,000 people dead.

Opposition leader Anura Bandaranaike told Parliament the government should look among its own supporters for Tuesday's lone attacker at the meeting of MP's of the ruling United National Party.

"Look nearer your home rather than looking for scapegoats under every bed and behind every bush," Mr. Banadaranaike said.

Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa Thursday told Parliament his reason for boycotting Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Colombo visit to sign the July 29 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord aimed at ending the Tamil separatist conflict.

Mr. Premasada said the boycott was in protest at New Delhi's "armed invasion" of the island's airspace — a reference to an air drop of relief aid by India to Tamils in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna Peninsula. "I love my country as I love my mother," he said. "I will not see anybody who invades the territory of Sri Lanka."

Mr. Premadasa's statement was his first since the signing of the accord that is bitterly opposed by many Sri Lankans. Government sources said Mr. Premadasa is one of nine ministers in the Sri Lankan Cabinet who oppose the peace accord and have given a document to President Junius Jayewardene arguing against the agreement.

Mr. Premadasa repeated his charge that the Sri Lankan Tamil rebels were being supported by India and said the surrender of arms by a dominant Tamil rebel group to the Indian peacekeeping force in Jaffna confirmed his accusation.

"We have to ask ourselves whether the terrorists are surrendering their weapons to those who gave them the arms in the first place," he said.

Under the accord, about 6,000 Indian troops have formed a peacekeeping force in Sri Lanka to monitor the implementation of the peace pact and receive weapons from the Tamil rebels.